

RECONCILIATION LEARNING CENTER 4

When I say no to God

I sin... I turn away...

Directions:

1. Read "The Story of Raggy" aloud. (On back of this sheet)

2. Talk about the story:

- What did Raggy do wrong?
- Why did Raggy do it?
- Who helped Raggy?
- Why was Raggy sorry?
- How did the King forgive?
- Talk about the choices Raggy made.
- When did it change from a temptation to a sin?

3. Read the following:

*It is not always easy to obey.
Sometimes we feel like disobeying.
Sometimes we feel like answering back.
We may want to steal or tell a lie.
We may want to blame others.*

*These are temptations.
Temptations are not sin.*

*We know what God wants us to do.
But sometimes we say "no" to Him.
We do, on purpose, what we know is wrong.*

*To sin is to disobey God on purpose.
When we sin, we make others unhappy, and we hurt ourselves.*

4. Bow your head. Together say a prayer to Jesus. Ask Jesus to help you choose what is good.

The Story of Raggy

Once there was a boy named Raggy. He was an orphan and had only old clothes. One day, as he was sitting by the roadside wondering where he could find something to eat, along came the King. He was a wonderful King. Everyone loved him.

The King saw Raggy. He felt sorry for him, and decided to take Raggy to his home. There he fed Raggy, gave him new clothes, and said, "Raggy, I have a wonderful son of my own, but I would like to make you my son, too. Then you can have an older brother to help you all the time."

Raggy was so happy! He had a new home, a father, and a wonderful brother as well.

One day, Raggy had a good idea. "I'm going fishing," he said, but the only place to go fishing was at the river, and the King had said, "Don't go near the river. It is dangerous." But Raggy knew better. Down to the river he went. The water was very rough. "There's one." And as he leaned over the bank of the river, down he went into the stream. Raggy screamed for help, "Help! Help!"

Raggy screamed so loud that the King heard him. The King said to his son, "Quickly! Try to save Raggy!" The son ran down, jumped into the stream, and came up with Raggy.

"What will the King do to me?" asked Raggy. The King's son answered, "You did disobey. But my father loves you. I will take you home to him. If you are sorry, I'm sure my father will forgive you."

And home they went. Along the way Raggy said, "I am sorry. I'm wet and cold, and besides I will be punished. Oh, I am sorry."

The King's son shook his head, "Raggy, my father wants us to stay away from the river because he loves us and doesn't want us hurt. And now you have hurt the King by disobeying him." "You got all wet jumping into the water to save me."

Poor Raggy! He was miserable. He said, "I am sorry. Really sorry. I love the King but I did exactly what he asked me not to do! I'm sorry I hurt him and you!"

When they met the King, his son said, "Father, forgive Raggy. He is sorry." Raggy said, "It is true. I didn't really want to hurt you or your son."

The King said, "You are forgiven because you are sorry, Raggy. But you disobeyed, and you must be punished. Next week the circus is coming, but you can't go."

Raggy felt bad, but at the same time, he was glad he was forgiven. And so he put on a happy face. He loved the King even more!

