

# Original Sin and God's Mercy

A parable of a broken world and a loving king

**Ages about 7-11** | Video 4:56 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

**Central truth** In an invented parable, a steward breaks the golden heart and cannot restore it alone; the king comes to help and welcome him home.

**Learning goals** Retell the steward's choice and the king's response; distinguish parable images from literal Catholic teaching; and practice asking for help after a wrong choice.

**Gather** Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

**Watch online** [Open this video on Servus Dei](#)

## Before watching | 2 minutes

Explain that this is an invented teaching story, not a Bible event. Watch the difference between the steward's excuses and the king's mercy.

## Watch and notice

Notice the forbidden lever, failed repairs, the king entering the broken world, and the final welcome.

## Talk together | 6-8 minutes

### 1. What wrong choice did the steward make?

He decided he knew better than the king and pulled the forbidden lever, breaking the golden heart.

### 2. Why did his repairs fail?

The damage was beyond what he could fix alone. He first blamed the machine and rule instead of honestly seeking help.

### 3. How did the king respond?

He chose costly help and restored the relationship, welcoming the steward home. This image points toward God's saving mercy.

### 4. What can you do after a wrong choice?

Tell the truth, ask for forgiveness and help, and make what repair you can. Jesus' grace comes first; we cannot earn salvation by fixing everything ourselves.

**Then respond and pray** Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

# Lead the response

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**Short family lesson** Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

## Choose a handout

**Draw & Tell** Draw the king reaching out to welcome the steward. Then draw a safe moment of asking for help after a wrong choice. Accept an oral explanation.

**Read & Write** Recall the story, explain its central teaching, then apply it through a specific choice.

## Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: draw or dictate answers; revisit the named story moment together.

Ages 9-11: explain the connection between the story detail and the planned response.

## Excuse, honesty, help | Optional 4 minutes

Fold paper into three panels. In the first, draw the broken machine and name an excuse from the story. In the second, write an honest admission the steward could make. In the third, draw the king's welcome and name a trusted person who can help after a mistake.

**Look for understanding** Look for the named story details in the answers and a practical response connected to human limits, repentance, and saving mercy.

**Closing prayer** Jesus, thank you for your saving mercy. Help us tell the truth, receive your grace, and begin again. Amen.

**At home** Discuss the three panels with an adult, using a small ordinary mistake rather than requiring private confessions.

**Handout answer notes** The steward pulled the forbidden lever. The king came into the broken world, restored it, and welcomed him. Look for honest acknowledgment and a safe request for help.

## Teach with care

Provide paper and pencils. Preview the video and invite children to ask questions or pass. The machine and aging king are parable images. Clarify that original sin is not a child's personal fault and that God's divine life cannot be depleted. This is an invented analogy, not a literal account of Adam or Jesus. Original sin is an inherited wounded condition, not a baby's personal wrongdoing. God does not age or lose divinity; the old king is only a story image. Do not identify all illness or natural harm with an individual's sin.

**Words to explain** Parable: a teaching story using images. Steward: someone entrusted to care for a gift. Mercy: love that helps and forgives in need.

## Sources for the leader

Story source: [Servus Dei video and English transcript](#)

Background: [Catechism 396-412: the Fall and original sin](#)

# The king's welcome

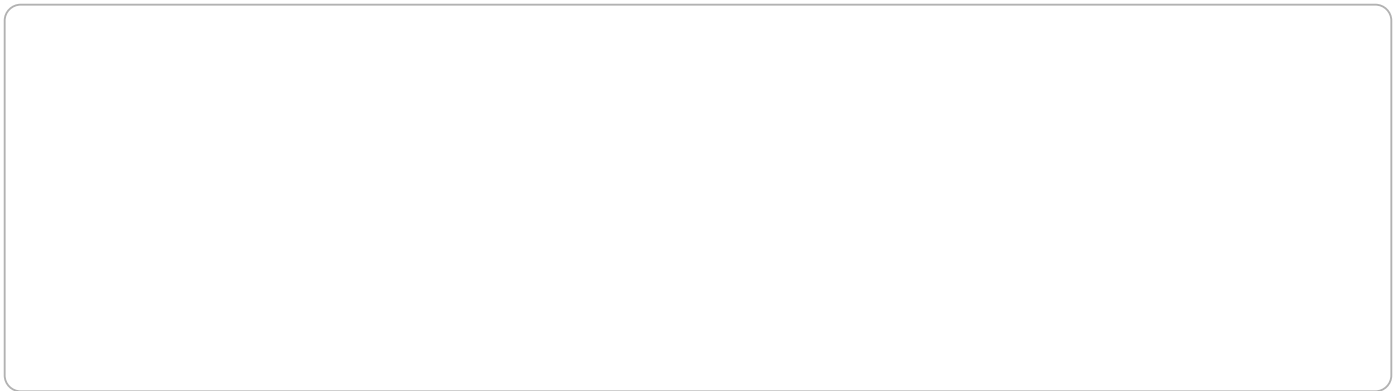
Original Sin and God's Mercy

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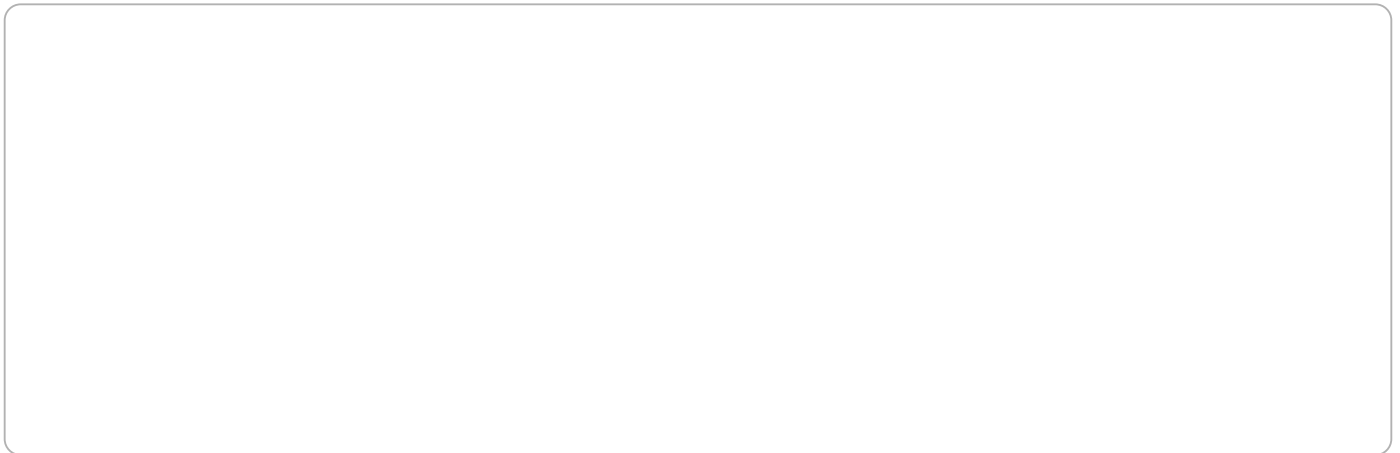
Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult helper** Read aloud. Invite drawing, pointing, or spoken answers. Writing is optional.

## 1 Draw the king reaching out to welcome the steward.



## 2 Draw a safe moment of asking for help after a wrong choice.



**Tell** What changed between making excuses and receiving help?

**Pray** Jesus, thank you for your saving mercy. Help us tell the truth, receive your grace, and begin again. Amen.

**At home** Share your picture and one thing you learned about God or following Jesus.

# Mercy comes first

Original Sin and God's Mercy

A parable of a broken world and a loving king. Remember, explain, and respond.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 Remember

What broke the golden heart?

*The steward ...*

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## 2 Explain

What did the king do for him?

*The king chose to ...*

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## 3 Respond

How can you ask for help after a mistake?

*I can honestly say ...*

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**Pray** Jesus, thank you for your saving mercy. Help us tell the truth, receive your grace, and begin again. Amen.

**Go deeper** Why can accepting mercy require more honesty than blaming a broken rule?