The Door Beyond the Game

A story about truth, forgiveness, and beginning again

Suggested for elementary children; adapt for your family or classroom.
Allow about 20-30 minutes after the video for conversation and activities.

Before watching

Ask: Have you ever found it hard to stop something you enjoy?
Invite children to notice what Leo chooses, and what helps him begin again.

Talk together

1. Why does Leo pretend to feel sick? How does the lie affect him?
2. What does Jesus invite Leo to do? Whom does Leo tell the truth?
3. How do Dad, Mom, and Mia respond? What changes for Leo?
4. Leo misses the game crown. Why can he still be glad he helped Mia?
5. What helps Leo make time for God and his family afterward?

Leader note

This is an original fictional story, loosely inspired by Saint Hubert's conversion; its characters and game are invented. Explain that telling the truth can be difficult and that asking for help is a brave first step.
Do not require children to share personal mistakes in front of the group.

Try it together

On paper, draw a door. Inside, write one small choice that makes room for God or another person: pause a game, pray, listen, or offer help.

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Faith connections

Jesus welcomes us when we turn back to him. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a person confesses sins to a priest, receives absolution, and is encouraged to live differently. Follow your parish's guidance for children who are preparing for the sacrament.

At Mass Leo receives Holy Communion. Catholics believe Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. Invite children to speak with a parent, catechist, or priest about receiving Communion reverently.

Scripture for further study

Luke 15:11-24 - the father welcomes his returning son.

1 John 1:9 - God is faithful and forgives when we acknowledge our sins.

John 6:51 - Jesus speaks of himself as the living bread.

Pray together

Jesus, thank you for coming to find us. Help us tell the truth, say sorry, and make room for you and for the people you have given us. Amen.

A small step this week

Choose a stopping time with a parent or caregiver. When it comes, save the game and make time for prayer or someone you love.

Scripture: bible.usccb.org/bible/luke/15 | bible.usccb.org/bible/1john/1 bible.usccb.org/bible/john/6