

GABRIEL'S QUEST

Rules and Consequences

Lesson Link: We obey God because we love Him and He wants what is best for us.

Gabriel was often surprised when he walked into his classroom at St. Clare's. He never knew what his teacher, Sister Mary, would bring in to show them.

Today, he arrived to see some of the kids gathered around a large table at the front of the room. On the table was a large three-dimensional puzzle of a giant church.

Sister Mary said, "This is a model of the Cathedral of Notre Dame." She spoke the words "No-trah Dom" carefully.

Gabriel leaned in to look. The model was made of tiny puzzle pieces. He reached up to touch one of the tall spires.

"Please don't touch," Sister Mary said. "I'm afraid that a bump or a jolt could make it collapse."

The bell rang for their school day to begin. Sister Mary sent the kids back to their seats. All morning Gabriel caught himself looking at the cathedral. He thought it must have taken Sister Mary a very long time to put all those pieces together.

During recess, Gabriel and his friends Sean, Philip, and Max played tag on the playground. The game continued when they came back into the school building. "No running in the halls!" a teacher shouted at them. They giggled and stopped. But only for a minute.

The four boys were the first ones back to their class. Sean suddenly dashed around a desk and tagged Philip. Philip quickly tagged Max. Max lunged at Gabriel. Gabriel jumped backwards to escape. He tripped over the leg of a chair and lost his balance.

His arms reeled as he fell. He slammed into a table and dropped to the ground. Then something that felt like popcorn sprinkled on his head and shoulders.



"Oh no!" Sean cried out.

Gabriel looked down. Small, odd-shaped pieces of colored cardboard were all around him.

Gabriel scrambled to his feet. He looked at the table. Most of the cathedral puzzle had fallen apart.

Just then, Sister Mary walked into the room. She looked at the boys. Then her eyes went to the table and the ruined puzzle. She frowned and pointed to the door. "Please go to the office," she said to the four boys.

Gabriel had never been sent to the office before. "What will they do to us?" he whispered as they walked down the hall.

"Call our parents," said Philip. "Make us stand in the corner," said Sean. "Throw us out into the street," said Max.

"No they won't!" said Gabriel.

"My parents will if they get another call from the office about me," said Max.

Gabriel thought he might be sick.

Sister Stephanie was the school principal. "Tell me what happened," she said.

Sean, Philip, and Max stood in front of Sister Stephanie's desk and argued about whose fault it was.

Finally, Gabriel raised his hand. Sister Stephanie told the three boys to *shush* and nodded to Gabriel.

"We were playing tag and I wrecked Sister Mary's cathedral," he said.

Sister Stephanie sighed. "Do you see why we have rules in our school? Rules help us to live together safely and happily. Rules help keep people from being hurt. Rules protect the things we value. Following the rules shows respect to others. And when we show our respect to others, we also show our love for God."

Gabriel looked down at the floor. He wondered what would happen next.

"I want you to stand right here and think about what you are going to say to poor Sister Mary," Sister Stephanie said.

Sister Stephanie left them. They waited for only five minutes, but it felt a lot longer to Gabriel. Then Sister Mary came in. She stood in front of them.

Gabriel cleared his throat and said, "I'm sorry I ruined your puzzle."

The other three boys mumbled the same thing.

"I forgive you," Sister Mary said. "But there are still consequences. What do you think is a fair punishment?"

The boys mumbled some more. Then Gabriel said, "We will help you put the puzzle together again every day during recess."

The three boys glared at Gabriel.

"I accept," Sister Mary said.

On the way back to the classroom, Sean lightly hit Gabriel in the arm and whispered, "Did you have to say 'during recess'? Why not 'during math'?"

Gabriel shook his head and thought, *Maybe it's time to find some new friends.*

Questions:

(Choose three questions at most.)

1. **Why didn't Gabriel follow the rules given by Sister Mary?** (Answers may include he was distracted; he was playing.)
2. **Have you ever forgotten or ignored rules? What happened?** (Answers may vary.)
3. **Do you think it was easy for Sister Mary to forgive Gabriel? Why?** (Answers may vary.)
4. **How can friends help us follow the rules God has given us in the Ten Commandments?** (Answers may include encouraging us to be good, forgiving us when we break the commandments, and working with us to do good.)