

Chapter 5: God's Promise of a Savior

Through Original Sin, an infinite chasm between us and God was created, but God promised a Savior.

Chapter Summary

God created us for communion with Him and communion with one another. But through Original Sin, Adam and Eve lost communion with God and damaged their relationship with each other. As a result, we are born with the wound of Original Sin. We are born without the gift of friendship with God and original holiness. We are born without grace and the theological virtues. We do not have the gift of original justice, which would have brought us harmony with the world, one another, and ourselves. Instead, we experience an inclination to sin called concupiscence. Adam and Eve offended an infinite and all-loving God. Thus, an infinite gap resulted from this sin, and it was a gap we could never heal. But God still wanted to be in communion with us, so He promised Adam and Eve a Savior.

More for Parents

We may have heard the phrase said (or have said it ourselves), “God seems so distant lately.” There may be times when we haven’t heard His voice or felt the comfort of His presence in prayer. This happens at times. One of the reasons this may happen is because we have failed to recognize what we have done to distance ourselves from Him. Our own personal sins, particularly serious sins, can create a chasm between us and God. In order to close the chasm, we must acknowledge our sins and seek forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We can trust that God is calling us back and is seeking a close relationship with us. The question is, Do we put forward the effort to heal the relationship?

Virtue in the Family

Concupiscence is our inclination to sin. As an effect of the Fall, it draws us to sin even if we know it is wrong. Fighting concupiscence and living with virtue is a lifelong

battle, waged with the help of God’s grace. Our weapons include prayer, doing penance, reading Scripture, and celebrating the sacraments. The battle begins in the home.

Fighting Concupiscence

- As a family, pray for each other by name. Ask your guardian angels to defend you against the lies of the Devil and to help you resist your own concupiscence. (See page 315 for the Prayer to One’s Guardian Angel.)
- The next time your child does something wrong, pick a fitting punishment to show him the consequences of his actions. For example, if he lied about how long he played a video game, shorten or eliminate the amount of time he can play the following day. Then take time to explain how actions have consequences.
- Create a conflict resolution plan for disagreements among your children. Make one like the one below and then practice with your children as a way to strive for harmony in the home:
 - Step 1: Take a deep breath.
 - Step 2: Take turns sharing your point of view.
 - Step 3: Come to a solution.

Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- **concupiscence**
- **infinite**
- **original holiness**
- **original justice**
- **Original Sin**

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