

FAITH IN 5

Easter: Week 4

Ages 8+

1. **Do you know any Marian Hymns?** Singing hymns to Mary is a wonderful way to honor our Blessed Mother during May. A few classic Marian songs are "Daily, Daily Sing to Mary," "Immaculate Mary," "Salve Regina" and "Hail Mary, Gentle Woman." Family Challenge! Pick one to learn with your family this month.
2. **Did you know that this Sunday has a special name?** It's called *Good Shepherd Sunday*! The Gospel is from John. **What are some of the things Jesus says about His sheep?** Jesus says that we, His sheep, know His voice and we follow Him. **What does this Gospel tell you about who Jesus is?** This Gospel tells us that Jesus is one with His Father! We are protected in Jesus' hands and given eternal life. We need help getting to Heaven! A shepherd is a guide and a protector. Jesus keeps us safe from the snares of sin and shows us the way to Heaven.
3. This Friday, May 13, is the Feast of our Lady of Fatima! **Who is Our Lady of Fatima?** Our Blessed Mother appeared to 3 shepherd children in Portugal in 1917. Lucia, Jancinta and Francisco were very young-9, 8 and 6. They were devoted to their faith and our Heavenly Mother chose them to pass on a message to the world. She encouraged them to pray more, make sacrifices for sinners and to consecrate the country Russia to her Immaculate Heart. She encouraged the children that Her Immaculate Heart would be triumphant in the end. **Do you know the Fatima Prayer?** This is one of the 5 prayers that Our Lady of Fatima taught to the children. It is recited at the end of the rosary decades. "*O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of your mercy.*"
4. **Apologetics: Why do Catholics teach things that are not in the Bible?** There are many things that God wants us to know and understand that are not written in the bible. For example- The Blessed Trinity are not words found in the bible, but we know the Blessed Trinity to be a truth and tenet of our faith anyways. Of course, nothing we believe is contrary to God's word either. Even if a Catholic teaching from the catechism or tradition may not be stated in plain words in the bible, none of our teachings contradict (or oppose) the Bible. "There are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." (John 21:15) **Can you think of any Catholic teachings that are not written word for word in the bible but we know to be true and supported by the Bible?** (The saints, sacraments, Mary, purgatory, the Holy Father etc...)

5. What are the two types of actual sin (sin we ourselves commit)? Venial and mortal sins. Venial sins are less serious offenses against the law of God. The evil done is not seriously wrong OR the sin was seriously wrong but the sinner sincerely did not know it to be or give full consent to it. **What is a mortal sin?** A mortal sin is a grievous offense against the law of God. It is called mortal because it takes away the life of the soul. To be a mortal sin- the thought/deed/word/desire/ action must be seriously wrong, the sinner must know it is seriously wrong and fully commit to it anyways. (Baltimore Catechism, chapter 6)

REVIEW QUESTION: How do we get rid of actual sin? Through the sacrament from confession!

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