

CONFIRMATION SESSION: PATHWAY

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Parents typically know what is best for their children. Take Halloween, for example. After a long night of walking from house to house dressed in the best costume, trick-or-treaters return home with an abundance of candy. Immediately, children dump out their candy, sort it, and proceed to eat as much as they can — if a parent does not step in. Parents know that eating a large amount of candy in a short period of time is not necessarily good for our health. While limiting the amount of candy to be eaten may lead to an argument — and perhaps a lot of tears — the parents know what is best for their child, so they stand their ground. The child may not be able to see it in the present moment, but their parents' actions are rooted in love and care for them.

The same is true for our relationship with God. God knows us, desires a relationship with us, and give us the best path that will lead to our happiness. Guiding our actions is a set of rules, called “morals,” that define how we are to treat ourselves and others. Similar to a parent limiting how much Halloween candy their child eats, morals are given to us by God to lead us to happiness.

However, we sometimes believe morals are a strict set of rules that we must follow. This rule mentality may even apply to how we view our faith and religion in general. Morals are not a list of rules that strip the world of joy. They are quite the opposite in fact, as they are designed to lead us on a path toward ultimate fulfillment. When we stray from that path, and from our morals, we are led to sin. These morals are written in the Gospels, but they are also clarified and upheld by the Church. Jesus' teachings are the foundation of the Church's moral teaching. Positive moral behaviors are known as “virtues” and negative moral behaviors are called “vices.” Jesus modeled virtues in the way He spoke, taught, and loved. He calls us to follow His example, embracing a life of virtue so we can discover the joy the Lord desires for us.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. What influences a person's belief of what is right and what is wrong?
2. What morals guide our actions as a family? What virtues does our family value? What vices do we try to avoid?
3. How does Jesus' example guide us as we strive to live virtuous lives?