

❖ God sent serpents among the Israelites because they had grown tired of eating manna and complained about both God and Moses. Being bitten by these serpents caused death. After many people died, the Israelites realized how sinful they had been. Moses interceded with God, who told Moses how to cure the snakebites. A bronze serpent was raised on a pole.

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❖ In the New Testament, the image of the bronze snake is compared to Jesus' Death and Resurrection, which healed us of sin. The bronze snake on the pole prefigures Jesus on the Cross. We are called to have faith in Jesus' sacrifice. That is why we display crosses or crucifixes in our homes and wear them as symbols of our faith.

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❖ Sin is the root of all evil, but Jesus broke the power of sin. By expressing sorrow for our sins and becoming reconciled to God, we are granted new life in the Holy Spirit.

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❖ Confession is one way that we become reconciled with God. Confession is another name for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Through it, we express our sorrow for our sins and promise to do better.

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❖ We can reconcile ourselves with God through an act of contrition, such as a prayer or an act of kindness to another person. When we go to confession, the priest will ask us to make an act of contrition. He may tell us what we should do to repair our relationship with God.

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❖ We reconcile ourselves with God at Mass every week through the Eucharist. This is the fullest sign of God's forgiveness. By participating in the Eucharist, we accept the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. We are nourished, and God takes away anything that stands between him and us.

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❖ A mortal sin is one that is seriously wrong. To commit mortal sin, you must know that it is seriously wrong and freely and willingly choose to do it anyway.

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❖ A venial sin is a lesser sin. It can be forgiven in many ways. You should confess venial sins because they can lead to more serious sins.

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❖ In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, we repair our relationship with God and identify our bad habits and replace them with virtues. We receive the life-giving power of God's grace through the sacrament. By receiving God's grace, we grow closer to him and to others. We are able to better inform our consciences and to make choices that lead us away from sin.

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❖ A virtue is a habit of doing something good. Virtues help us on our journey to happiness. They help us strengthen our relationships with God and with those around us.

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