

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARENTS:

1. *Read the following scenarios to your child.*
2. *Allow your child time to think about the scenario – and to ask you questions.*
3. *Discuss with him/her whether it is an example of an accident, a mistake, or a sin*

SCENARIO A:

One of my favorite things to do when I was growing up was to play in the backyard on the tire swing my father had made for us. The tire was held in place with a sturdy rope that was tied onto a high branch of a huge tree. Dad would push us so high it felt like you could touch the sky. One day when my parents were inside the house, my little brother asked if I would push him in the swing. “Okay,” I said, “but we have to be careful.” My little brother climbed into the swing and held on tight. I gave him gentle pushes, being careful not to push him too high. “Go higher,” he cried, “Go higher!” Gradually, I pushed him higher and higher. But he wanted more. So I pushed him as hard as I could. Up, up, he went, as high as could be. But instead of swinging back like it was supposed to, the tire swing began to go crooked and my brother crashed into the side of the tree. His face was cut and bruised.

Was this an accident, a mistake, or a sin?

SCENARIO B:

One day, when my older sister and mother weren't home, I asked my baby-sitter if I could borrow one of my sister's sweaters to wear to a friend's party that afternoon. “What rules do you have about borrowing clothes?” she asked. I told her our family rule: “If I borrow someone's clothes, I have to be very careful and return it nice and clean.” My sitter thought this sounded reasonable and gave me permission to borrow the sweater. At the party, I was very careful to take good care of the sweater. At the party red punch was served. I sipped it very carefully, but was horrified when I noticed that some of it had dribbled onto my sister's

beautiful angora sweater. When I got home I put the sweater into the washing machine and then the dryer. The sweater shrank to less than half its original size. I gave the ruined sweater back to my sister and told her what had happened.

Was this an accident, a mistake, or a sin?

SCENARIO C:

I was the oldest child in my family. Because I was the oldest, I had many responsibilities. My three brothers, though, hardly had to do anything. At least, that was my opinion. My brother Bob, for example, had only 2 jobs – he had to empty the garbage every day and he could not lose his glasses. One day when I was playing in our basement with my friends, Bob asked if he could join us. I didn't want my little brother around and I asked him to let us "have our space". But no matter how much I begged him to leave, Bob stayed. Eventually, my friends grew tired of our bickering and decided to go home. That made me angry because I felt my little brother had wrecked our time together. I decided to get even. I put Bob's glasses under a bunch of dirty Kleenex in the wastebasket in his room. Later that day, he emptied the wastebasket. After a while, Bob realized that he couldn't find his glasses. He spent the whole day looking for those glasses. At the dinner table, I told my mother that Bob told me that he hated his glasses so much that he was going to throw them away. "That's probably what he did," I said, "He probably threw them away." Mom looked in the trash, and sure enough, there were the glasses.

Was this an accident, a mistake, or a sin?

SCENARIO D:

Once when I was watching a program on television, I saw a teenage go into a soda shop and order a root beer. The clerk filled an icy mug to the top and slid it down the length of the counter. The teen caught it and took a big gulp. I thought this looked like fun. When my friend came over to play, I asked if she wanted a mug of root beer. She said yes, and I filled a mug and pushed it down the kitchen counter. But my friend hadn't seen the same TV show and the mug crashed onto the kitchen floor and made a big mess.

Was this an accident, a mistake, or a sin?