

Chapter 3 *What Went Wrong ?*

For God formed man to be imperishable, but by the envy of the devil, death entered the world. *Wisdom 2:23-23*

To the Parents:

In chapter 3 your child learned the following:

- Sin, suffering, death, and evil entered into God's good creation through the disobedience of the first humans.
- Humans are still tempted to choose what is wrong.
- God takes the initiative to strengthen us with redeeming love.

The condition of the world as we know it is far from the state of original holiness and justice in which it was created. Suffering, disease, death, sin—none of these evils characterize God's creation in Genesis, yet they are only too evident in life on earth. The biblical story of the fall of humanity answers the question: what went wrong?

Humanity's prideful choice to turn away from God's love introduced sin and death into the world. This choice has wounded human nature. We are impaired in our ability to relate to God, one another, and the entire created world as God intended. This wounded condition, known as *original sin*, is shared by all humanity. We must rely upon God's grace to restore us to friendship with him, communion with one another, and harmony with creation.

In each of the stories of Genesis, we see that God's mercy and love are continually given to fallen humanity, and that these gifts overcome the reality of sin and evil. God's own Son has given his life to make matters right again and to show us the way to everlasting life.

With Your Child:

1. Read the story of the fall of Adam and Eve in Genesis and then talk about the Scripture passage.
2. Talk about how you can put aside anger and envy and bring peace to those around you.
3. Clean out your closets and give all the clothes that don't fit you to charity. Then talk about ways you can clothe the members of your family with respect, forgiveness, and love.
4. Together read about Venerable Franz Jägerstätter on the Review and Explore page.