Scenarios for Activity for Years 3 & 4 – 5 December, 2010

Give the children these scenarios which involve moral dilemmas and ask them to choose which option they would pick in each case. Then discuss with them the significance of each option.

<u>Scenario 1:</u> Mum and Dad have to go out to visit a sick friend in hospital. They leave you at home on your own and tell you that when you finish all your homework, you are allowed one hour of internet use. You finish all you homework and finish using the internet to play games for one hour, but it's still early and you want to continue to use the internet for longer. No one is at home to watch you disobey Mum and Dad's instructions.

<u>Choices for Scenario 1:</u> What do you do? Do you reason that because you've done everything else that Mum and Dad wanted, that you allow yourself to continue to use the internet for another hour? Or do you remember that you were only allowed to use the internet for one hour and it's important to obey your parents?

Points for scenario: 1 point if you choose to finish all your homework, but end up using the internet for more than one hour.

2 points for obeying your parents and only using the internet for one hour.

Scenario 2: The exams are finished and you are going out with your friends for a while. They decide to go to McDonalds for to try out the new super beef burger meals which are being sold at a reduced price to encourage people to but them. However, it is the second week of the Christmas Fast and you know that you shouldn't be eating meat during the fast, but you know that your friends would understand about the fast and you don't want to look un-cool in front of them by eating something different. You remember that your parents taught you that its important to be faithful to your commitments regarding fasting and prayer. You remember that they also taught you that the fast is not so much about the food as it is about sacrificing something for God.

<u>Choices for Scenario 1:</u> What do you do? Do you reason that because it is only the second week in the Christmas Fast that it's not that it's OK to break the fast just this once? After all, your parents did say that fasting is not just about the food and you can always go to confession and Abouna will absolve you. Or do you order fries and a drink, knowing that your friends will thinks that you're strange?

Points for scenario : 1 point if you choose to break the fast, but decide to go and see Abouna afterwards to ask for forgiveness.

2 points for keeping your commitment to the fast and using this occasion to teach our friends that in you Church, you prepare for the blessings of Christmas by praying and fasting. **Scenario 3:** After school you go to the library for a few minutes to borrow a book that you need for your assignment. Then you and your friends stop by at the shopping center on the way home and hang out for a while before you walk home. Mum and Dad have asked you to tell them why you were late getting back from school. You know that if you tell them the whole truth that you went to the shopping center with your friends that you will get in trouble and possibly be grounded, which is embarrassing because your friends will think that you're a baby.

<u>Choices for Scenario 3:</u> What do you do? Do you reason that if you tell them part of the truth, that you were late because you went to the library that it wouldn't be a lie because you did in fact go to the library

after school, even though you were only there for a few minutes? Anyhow, it might even make you look good in front of them because they will think that you are being a good student. Or do you tell them the whole truth and admit that the reason that you were late was that you went to the shopping center with your friends before you came home?

Points for scenario : 1 point if you choose to tell you parents only part of the truth and blame your lateness on going to the library.

2 points for telling your parents the whole truth and accepting any punishment they give you because you know that you did the wrong thing in.

<u>Scenario 4</u>: Your brother has been told by your Mum and Dad not to play soccer inside the house. One day they are out and they leave you in charge of looking after your brother. He plays soccer inside the house and kicks the ball too hard, which causes it to bounce off the living room wall and knock over a vase. The vase falls to the floor and smashes into pieces. He asks you not to tell on him. He knows that if he tells Mum and Dad that he was playing soccer inside the house that he will get in a lot of trouble for disobeying them. So instead, he wants to tell them that the vase broke accidentally while he was cleaning it, so that even though they will not be happy about the vase breaking, at least he won't get in trouble for being disobedient. The trouble is, he needs you to help cover up for him. You don't want to see him get in trouble and you think that he's learned his lesson now.

<u>Choices for Scenario 4</u>: What do you do? Do you reason that since your brother is owning up to breaking the vase, that it's OK not to tell your parents that it happened because he was playing soccer inside the house? Or do you give your brother a chance to tell you parents what really happened and if he doesn't, you tell them?

Points for scenario : 1 point if you choose to cover up for your brother to save him from getting into trouble.

2 points for telling your parents because it's important to always be honest with them and you trust that they will find a way to teach your brother to be more obedient and more honest.

<u>Scenario 5:</u> Megan is a very popular girl at school and she has invited you to her birthday party which is on the same day as Clair's birthday party. Clair is not very popular with everyone in class and has only invited you. Megan, on the other hand is extremely popular and has invited the whole class. Everyone is talking about how cool Megan's party will be and you want to mix with all the other kids and be thought of as cool too. However, you know that if you don't go to Clair's party, she will not have anyone else there and she will feel really bad.

<u>Choices for Scenario 5:</u> What do you do? Do you reason that you need to go to Megan's party because you belong with the cool kids and you'll have more fun there? You can tell Clair that you're sick on the day. She'll never know and she'll get over the disappointment in time. Or do you Go to Clair's party and support her because she doesn't have any other friends

Points for scenario: 1 point if you choose to make an excuse of being sick to Clair so that you can go to Megan's party.

2 points for telling Megan that you can't make her party and going to Clair's party instead.