

How do people try to compensate for the bad things they do?

Paula needed a good grade on her science test. Her parents had warned her that if her grade dropped any more, she would lose certain privileges at home.

The next day, Paula cheated on the exam by copying a friend's answers. Then she felt bad. When she went to church, she took the money she had been saving and put it in the offering plate. She thought maybe that would help her feel better.

Rick needed a book for his math homework. Since he was the last one to leave the classroom, he saw the book he needed on the teacher's desk and, without asking, took it home. After using it, he forgot the book on his bed; the dog found it and destroyed the cover.

The next day, Rick arrived earlier than everyone and put the book in its place. When the teacher saw that it was damaged, he got angry and asked who had done it. Nobody confessed.

Rick continued thinking about the book. He had disappointed God, his teacher and himself, so he decided to volunteer to cut the grass at the church on Saturday, instead of going to play with his friend Roger. He thought maybe volunteering at church would make him feel better.

