

# Parent Guide, Reconciliation Session 1

## Invite (Teacher Led)

Please join your child's teacher for the *Invite* portion of the lesson by clicking the link on our Parish website.

## Discover (Parent-Led)

### Signs & Symbols (page 11)

You and your child can take turns reading this section. Write *Church* and *church* on a piece of paper. Use the information in the third paragraph to contrast the two words.

- *Say:* We usually celebrate the Sacraments in the church building. But the Church, the Body of Christ, is part of every Sacrament. The Church (capital "C") is the people, whereas the church (lowercase "c") is the building.

To reinforce you could draw a picture underneath each word to illustrate its meaning.

### Meet Jesus (page 11)

Introduce Jesus as the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.

Use the first paragraph to review our beliefs about the Holy Trinity.

- Point out the image of the Trinity. Have the children identify which part of the image symbolizes each member of the Trinity.
- *Say:* God sent his Son to us to save us from our sins and show us how to live. Jesus loved outcasts, fed the hungry, and cared for the sick. When we live as Jesus did, we show God's love.

★ Invite your child to turn to the Meet Jesus feature at the back of the book (following page 88). Have them place the correct sticker label by the image of Jesus as the Second Person of the Trinity. The stickers are found on the last page of the book. Your child will do this for each new title of Jesus they learn in the following sessions.

### Created by God (page 12)

Invite your child to read aloud the text.

- Explain that "made in God's image" doesn't mean an exact copy. It means that God created us to be like him, including the ability to love and to be holy. Point out how knowing that God created us for a purpose affects how we see ourselves and how we live.
- *Say:* Being created in the image and likeness of God means we can do what God asks of us.
- *Ask:* What kind of person does God want you to be? *Answers will vary.*

### God's Word (page 12)

Prepare your child to hear the creation story.

- *Say:* Let's listen to the story of how God created people.

Proclaim the Scripture.

- *Ask: Who created man and woman? God created man and woman.*
- *Say: God created Adam and Eve out of love. The love that Adam and Eve had for each other came from God.*
- *Ask: How does it make a difference to know that the love your family has for each other comes from God's love? Answers will vary.*
- *Say: God made all human beings to be one family. This reading shows that we all came from our first parents, Adam and Eve; so we are all one family.*

### **Made for God and Each Other (page 13)**

Read aloud the first paragraph.

- *Ask: What makes humans different from the rest of creation? We are made in God's image and likeness. How does God want us to relate to the rest of creation? Possible responses: with kindness and love; by being good stewards; by treating God's creation with respect*

Have your child work on the coloring activity. Come back together when they have finished.

- *Ask: What words did you find in the picture? "God" and "others" Why were we created? to be in relationship with God and others and to live out our purpose*

### **Entering the Mystery (page 13)**

Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph.

- Explain that a mystery is not a riddle or story. *Mystery* refers to a truth that only God can make known to us. It is hard to understand with our mind or senses, but it can be known through faith and signs.

Read aloud the second paragraph.

- Point out that the Sacraments are special signs and celebrations of God's love that Jesus gave to his Church.
- *Say: The Holy Spirit leads us into the great mystery of God because of his great love for us.*

### **The Perfect Image of God (pages 14 & 15)**

Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph.

Read aloud the second paragraph with your child. Complete the activity by discussing the four pieces of art on pages 14 and 15.

- *Ask: Which picture shows Jesus healing? Jesus rubbing mud on the man's eyes*
- Instruct your child to write the word healing under that image.
- *Say: Jesus understood other people's feelings.*
- *Ask: Which picture shows that Jesus understood others' feelings? the picture of Mary and Jesus*
- *Say: Mary's brother, Lazarus, had just died. The picture shows Jesus and Mary at his tomb. Write compassion under this image.*

Explain that Jesus died on the Cross to save us from our sins. This was an act of forgiveness.

- Have your child write forgiving under that image.
- *Say: Jesus helped people open their hearts to God and change the way they lived. Jesus invites all of us to conversion, which means changing our hearts.*
- Have your child write conversion under the picture of Jesus talking with people.

- *Say:* We can all grow closer to God and work to be more like Jesus. Remember, only a creator can fully know the purpose of his or her creation. God created us, so he knows what we can do, even when we aren't sure.

### Seeing God in Others (page 15)

Read aloud the text.

- Emphasize that God is perfectly good. There is goodness in every person because God created us.
- Point out that when someone is loving, we see God in that person because God is loving. When someone is creative, we see God's creativity at work. When someone is forgiving, peaceful, or good in other ways, we know that God is at work in that person.

★ **Disciples Sharing** Give the children time to think of a person they love and why they love that person. Then invite them to talk about their special person.

### Free to Choose (page 15)

Read aloud the first two paragraphs.

- *Ask:* What is free will? *The God-given freedom to make choices.* Why would God give us free will? *Possible response:* so we can have the freedom to choose to love God above all things and others as ourselves. What happens when we choose to live the way God wants us to? *We are good; we live out our purpose and God's will for us.* What happens when we make a choice against love? *We sin; we harm our relationship with God and others.*

Summarize the remaining text. Emphasize that God always loves us, even when we sin. We can always ask for his forgiveness.

### Special Blessings (page 16)

Ask your child when they have been blessed. *Possible responses: at Mass, at prayer time*

- Read aloud the first paragraph.
- *Ask:* What things can be blessed? *people, places, things, and tasks* Why would we ask God's blessing on a task, like taking a test or working on a project? *Possible response: because we want his help completing it successfully*

Remind the children of the creation story from page 12. Then read aloud the second paragraph.

- *Ask:* When do you ask for God's blessing? *Possible responses: before meals, at the beginning or end of the day* Who or what might you ask God to bless? *Possible responses: my family, my studying, my friends, and my classmates*

✪ Go to page 82 for other types of prayers

★ Give your child time to reflect and complete the activity. Invite your child to share with you when they have finished.

★ **Disciples Sharing** Talk with your child about some things that you, or they, have had blessed.

### Live (Parent or teacher led)

#### Respect God's Image (Page 17)

Summarize the first paragraph.

- *Ask:* Why is it sometimes hard to see God in other people? *Sometimes we only see what we don't like in others.*

- *Say:* Always remember that everyone is created in God's image, so we must treat each other with dignity and respect.

Read aloud the last two paragraphs, then have your child complete the activity. If they find this activity difficult, have them practice this exercise with someone they get along well with.

## ♥Closing Prayer (parent or teacher led)

*Gather around a prayer table. Begin with the Sign of the Cross.*

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, you created the world and everything in it. You created it and found it good. We remember your Word from the Psalms.

**Child:** "I praise you, because I am wonderfully made ..." (*Psalms 139:14*).

**Leader:** God made us and we are good. Let's offer our praise to God, and raise both of our arms up high.

### **Raise both of your arms up high**

**All:** I praise you, because I am wonderfully made.

**Leader:** We are wonderfully made by God and created to be in relationship with him and each other. We are the family of God and our Baptism makes us a part of his Church.

### **Hold hands with those who are next to you**

**All:** We are God's family. We are your Church, Lord! Open our hearts, minds, and eyes so that we may see and reflect your glory! Amen.

## ★My Family in Our Parish (p.18)

This page encourages making a connection to God through your parish as well as being thankful for each member of your family, the domestic church.

Have your child complete this page after you attend mass (virtually or in person) so they can take a look around the church to see what stands out to them and inspires them to connect to God.

### **Additional Game/Activity Options found on the website [sacraments.osv.com](http://sacraments.osv.com)**

- Invite your child to play the Key Words and Concepts Matching Game in the Games section. Use this game to review important words and concepts from this session.
- Have scissors and colored pencils or crayons ready and download the Mystery Puzzle from the Games Section of the website.