

Parent Guide, Reconciliation Session 5

We Confess and Do Penance

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 51)

Continue discussing hands by reading aloud the first paragraph.

- Have your child stand to make the gestures the text describes as you read.
- *Ask:* What do your hands show during the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation? *Possible response: that we willingly participate*

Remind your child that Jesus gave us the Sacraments.

Read aloud the second paragraph.

- Call attention to the photograph of the priest.
- *Say:* The priest is making the gesture of absolution.
- *Ask:* Does it remind you of any gestures from the Mass? *when the priest blesses the gifts or the people* How is absolution a blessing? *It is a blessing that offers God's forgiveness.*

Meet Jesus (page 51)

Point out the image of Jesus.

- *Ask:* What does the crown on Jesus' head mean? *He is a king.*

Read aloud the first paragraph.

- *Ask:* What does a good king do? *Possible responses: takes care of people, makes good laws*

Read aloud the second paragraph.

- Emphasize the definition of the term *Kingdom of God*.
- *Ask:* How is Jesus different from earthly kings? *Possible response: Jesus' Kingdom is in heaven and on Earth.*

★ 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 Christ the King. The stickers are found on the last page of the book.

Invited into the Kingdom (page 52)

Link this page with the previous content.

- *Say:* When someone becomes a king, there is a special ceremony. He is given a crown and often some symbol of power. Do you think Jesus was this kind of King? Let's read and find out.

Read aloud the text.

- *Ask: What does anointing signify? that a person was chosen to be a leader How was Jesus anointed? by the Holy Spirit Why is Jesus willing to forgive our sins? because that is his nature; he loves us and wants to help us be all we were made to be; he wants us all to join him in God's Kingdom*

God's Word (page 52)

Ask your child to listen as you read the story of Zacchaeus to find out how he solved his problem of not being able to see Jesus.

Read aloud the story.

- *Ask: What problem did Zacchaeus have, and how did he solve it? He was too short to see Jesus, so he climbed a tree. What did that show Jesus? that Zacchaeus really wanted to see Jesus and learn about him*

Remind your child about Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

- *Ask: How was Zacchaeus like a lost sheep? Jesus looked for him and saved him.*

Scripture Background (for parents)

Luke 19:2–10 This story includes three important themes of Luke's Gospel: an outcast receives Jesus with praise and joy and then testifies to the mercy of God; Jesus challenges his listeners to evaluate their lives; and Jesus proclaims that salvation has come "today."

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus often associates with "tax collectors and sinners." (See Luke 5:30, Luke 7:34, and Luke 15:1.) These outcasts are much more ready to admit their sinfulness, while those in privileged positions do not see that they also need mercy. God's mercy is always available to those of us who know we are in need of his forgiveness.

The Spirit Leads Us (page 53)

Share that in Jesus' time, tax collectors were considered sinners because they worked for the disliked Roman government and often cheated people.

Read aloud the first paragraph.

- *Ask: If people did not like Zacchaeus, why did Jesus want to be with him? Jesus loves all people and wants to help Zacchaeus to do better. What made Zacchaeus happy? Jesus accepted him.*
- Emphasize the meaning of the term *conversion*.

Call attention to the work of the Holy Spirit by reading aloud the second paragraph twice.

Expand on the story.

- *Ask: How would you feel if Jesus came to your house? What would Jesus want you to do to be a better disciple? Responses will vary.*
 - Elicit thoughts on the themes of mercy and forgiveness.
- ★ Have your child complete the maze activity..

Entering the Mystery (page 53)

Read aloud the text and discuss how the story of Zacchaeus teaches that God loves us as we are.

- *Ask: How does God's love change us for the better? It makes us want to be better people.*

★***Optional Activity:*** After you've completed the instruction for page 53, play the Art Reveal Game that is related to the story of Zacchaeus. This game can be found in the [Games section](#) at sacraments.osv.com.

The Heart of Reconciliation (page 54)

On a piece of paper, write *sin, contrition, confession, penance*. Refer to the words as you work through these pages.

- *Ask:* How are sin and contrition related? *We feel contrition after sinning if we are sorry.*
- Read aloud the opening text.
- Review that being reconciled means being reunited with God and others.

Confession (page 54)

Help your child understand that all sins harm our relationship with God and others.

- Read aloud the first two paragraphs in this section to clarify the types of sin.
- Define and discuss the two types of sin by giving examples and emphasizing that all sins hurt our relationships, but mortal sins destroy our relationships.

Read through the next two paragraphs about confession.

- *Ask:* Why might confessing sins make people uncomfortable? *Accept reasonable responses.*
- *Say:* Doing things that make us uncomfortable can sometimes help us grow. (Cite that having a new teacher or new classmates can be hard at first, but it gets easier.)

Remind your child that we trust that God loves us no matter what we do. God, through the priest, lovingly hears us.

- Assure them that the sins we tell the priest stay with him. He cannot share our confession with anyone.

Read aloud the kernel in the top right corner of page 55.

- *Ask:* Why would it be important to confess mortal sins? *to help us be reconciled with God and others; because we don't want to live our lives separated from God*

Penance (page 55)

★***Optional Activity:*** Print the *Different Settings for Reconciliation* coloring sheet from the [Games section](#) of this website. Have your child complete this coloring sheet before the instruction on Penance.

Read aloud this section.

- Ensure that your child understands the meaning of penance.
- 🗝️ Have your child go to page 78 for a list of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
- *Ask:* Which Works of Mercy does our family practice?

★ Before your child begins the activity on page 55, call attention to the non-loving actions in the left column. Have your child match each of these to an appropriate reconciliation action on the right.

Reconciliation Is a Journey (page 56)

Remind your child that at certain times during the Church year (particularly Advent and Lent), your parish probably offers a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. The celebration begins with everyone gathered together, usually inside of the church.

Read aloud the first paragraph.

☛ Go over the information on pages 70–73 together..

Return to page 56 and read aloud the last two paragraphs.

- *Ask:* Why is it a good idea to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation with others? *Possible responses:* *We often hurt others, but we can experience God's forgiveness with them, too. It also shows support for each other and sets a good example for younger parishioners.*
- Emphasize the importance of the last sentence.
- ★ Have your child read aloud the questions above the activity. Explain the directions to your child.
- Have your child complete the activity.

Live (Parent led)

In God's Kingdom (page 57)

Say: Imagine what it would be like if we lived in a place where people always chose to do the right thing. Everyone has enough of everything they need because people share. No one hurts anyone else. It is a place where everyone loves God and each other. That is what heaven is like.

★ Read the directions. As needed, prompt your child with suggestions of attitudes or actions that lead us to God and attitudes or actions that lead us away from a life of happiness with God forever.

♥Closing Prayer (parent or teacher led)

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

Leader: Jesus, you are our King. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit to give us the strength to admit our weaknesses and failings as members of your Kingdom.

Child: Jesus said "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (*Matthew 22:37–39*).

All: Jesus, I give my heart to you. As a member of your Kingdom, I will do good and avoid sin. I will trust in your mercy when I fail. I will resolve to do better. I will love your people because I love you. Amen.

Leader: Strengthen us, O God, as we live as signs of your love.

All: Amen.

★My Family in Our Parish (page 58)

This page invites your family to focus on the life of a saint that is important to your parish and what can be learned from his or her words and actions about living a life of conversion and reconciliation.

★Family and Faith Pages

This session 5 pamphlet provides suggestions for family activities about living a life of conversion to become more like Jesus.