

## Overview

In this chapter the students will continue to learn more about prayer as listening to and talking to God who loves us. They will learn that a loving God calls us to turn toward him with all our hearts and that Jesus forgives us as only God can do.

Doctrinal Content	For Adult Reading and Reflection <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>
The students will learn:	Paragraph
• Jesus calls us to conversion. ....	1427
• Jesus forgives as only God can do. ....	1441
• Jesus continues to forgive us through the Church. ....	1442
• We are reconciled with God and the Church. ....	1445



**conversion**  
**sin**  
**Penance and Reconciliation**

## Catechist Background

**H**ave you ever owed someone a debt and had it forgiven?

Love's lifeblood is the freedom to give. If we are consumed with hatred, anger or guilt, we cannot give ourselves to another or accept his or her presence in our lives. The same is true with our relationship with God. If we are enslaved by sin, we are not free to be the loving people God created us to be. We reject God's abundant love and grace because we have turned away from the source—God himself.

Sin is "failure in genuine love for God and neighbor" (CCC 1849). Through our thoughts, words, deeds, or omissions, we turn away from God's law and love and follow a path that leads us away from God's presence. But God never abandons us. God constantly calls us to repent, and to be renewed in heart and mind: "I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts" (Ezekiel 36:26).

Go to [www.webelieveweb.com](http://www.webelieveweb.com), Catechist/Teacher, We Believe Correlations for this chapter's correlation to:

- Six Tasks of Catechesis
- Catholic Social Teaching
- *Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living.*

The good news is that God is always ready to receive us when, with contrite heart and sorrow for sin, we turn to him. Jesus' parables and actions showed that God always welcomes us back and forgives our sins. When his public ministry and life drew to a close, Jesus gave the authority to forgive sins to the Apostles and their successors in his Church: "Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:19 and 18:18). The Church celebrates God's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Through this sacrament we are made free once again to love with a generous heart.

**H**ow does knowing you are forgiven by God enable you to love others better?

# Lesson Planning Guide

## Lesson Steps

## Presentation

## Materials

### 1 WE GATHER

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Prayer



Focus on Life

- Listen to Scripture.  
 Respond in song.
- Discuss questions about forgiveness.

For the prayer space: a Bible and a bowl of water, a picture of a variety of people, and a picture of two friends

"We Belong to God's Family,"  
Owen Alstott, #13, Grade 5 CD

### 2 WE BELIEVE

pages 132–133

*Jesus calls us to conversion.*



Luke 15:11–24

- Read and discuss Jesus' teaching on turning to God and the parable of the two sons.



Write a story about being sorry and returning to God.

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*Jesus forgives us as only God can do.*



Mark 2:1–12

- Read and discuss Jesus' forgiving sinners and the way the Apostles share in this power.



Identify what can be done daily to be more accepting and forgiving of others.

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*Jesus continues to forgive us through the Church.*

- Read and discuss sin and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.



Name ways the Church helps us to be reconciling people.

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*We are reconciled with God and the Church.*

- Read and discuss working for peace and justice.
- Read and discuss *As Catholics*.

### 3 WE RESPOND

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Write a poem or song about being reconciled.

- copies of Reproducible Master 15, guide page 131C
- construction paper

pages 136–137  
**Project Disciple**

- Complete the **Project Disciple** activities.
- Explain the *Take Home* activity.
- Discuss/send home **Sharing Faith with My Family** reproducible master for this chapter.

- copies of **Sharing Faith with My Family** reproducible master, Chapter 15 (back of book)

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**Chapter 15 Test**

- Complete **Chapter 15 Test**.
- Work on *Alternative Assessment* activity.

- optional: copies of Scripture reproducible master, *What's the Word?*, Chapter 15 (back of book)