

Overview

In Chapter 17 the children learned about the Mass. In this chapter, the children will learn how we celebrate God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Doctrinal Content

For Adult Reading and Reflection
Catechism of the Catholic Church

The children will learn:

- We make the choice to love God. 1428
- God is our forgiving Father. 1439
- The Sacrament of Penance has several parts. 1450–1460
- The Church celebrates the Sacrament of Penance. 1469

Paragraph

Key Words

sin
conscience

Catechist Background

When in my life have I experienced the need for forgiveness and reconciliation?

When our relationships are broken, we desire to be reconciled, to make things right again. We want to forgive and be forgiven. When our relationship with God is broken, we desire reconciliation and forgiveness.

This awareness that we need to seek forgiveness comes from our conscience. Our conscience tells us when we have turned away from God through sin.

Sometimes our turning away is complete and we commit a mortal sin. Sometimes our breach is less serious, a venial sin. We approach God in order to ask forgiveness and to be reconciled to him in the Sacrament of Penance.

No matter what we have done to strain our relationship with God, we are assured that God forgives us. God, in turn, asks that we forgive others. “In refusing to forgive our brothers and sisters, our hearts are closed and their hardness makes them impervious to the Father’s merciful love” (CCC 2840).

Go to 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.*

In the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus shows us that God’s attitude toward us, even when we sin, is like that of the loving Father. He not only welcomes us back; he wants to throw us a party!

The Sacrament of Penance is very much like the encounter between the prodigal son and his father. In the sacrament, we examine our conscience, confess our sins to the priest, receive a penance, and are absolved from our sins. When celebrated in a communal celebration, we rejoice together that God has indeed forgiven us. Even when celebrated individually, the Sacrament of Penance is a celebration with the community, the Church. When sin is forgiven and relationships are healed, we rejoice.

How can God’s forgiveness flow from me to others?

Lesson Planning Guide

Lesson Steps

Presentation

Materials

1 WE GATHER

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Prayer



Focus on Life

- Pray in quiet reflection.
- Respond with an Act of Contrition.
- Answer questions about making choices.

For the prayer space: purple cloth, Bible, crucifix, copy of an Act of Contrition

2 WE BELIEVE

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We make the choice to love God.



- Read about and discuss mortal and venial sins.
- Write one way to show love for God today.

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God is our forgiving Father.



Luke 15:11–32



- Read and discuss the story of the lost son and God's forgiveness.
- Talk about people forgiving one another.

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The Sacrament of Penance has several parts.



- Read and discuss conscience and the parts of the Sacrament of Penance.
- Write one reason the Church celebrates the Sacrament of Penance.

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The Church celebrates the Sacrament of Penance.

- Read and discuss *As Catholics*.
- Read and discuss the two ways to celebrate Penance.

- copies of Reproducible Master 18, guide page 155C
- scissors and crayons
- sentence strips

3 WE RESPOND

page 159



- Discuss ways to thank God for forgiveness.
- Sing the song "Jesus, Jesus." (option)



"Jesus, Jesus," Carey Landry, #14, Grade 3 CD (option)

pages 160–161

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.

- colored pencils or crayons
- scissors
- copies of **Sharing Faith with My Family** reproducible master, Chapter 18 (back of book)

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Chapter 18 Test

- Complete **Chapter 18 Test**.
- Work on *Alternative Assessment* activity.

- optional: copies of Scripture reproducible master, *What's the Word?*, Chapter 18 (back of book)

For additional ideas, activities, and opportunities: Visit Sadlier's

www.WEBELIEVEweb.com