

## Celebrating Reconciliation

### Engage: Page 139

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Luke 1:76–79. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ We just read Zechariah’s canticle to the Lord. A canticle is a song of praise. Ask your child to think of occasions when people sing together. (Answers will vary.) Say: *People often sing when they want to express joy, such as at a birthday party. When we experience God’s forgiveness, our hearts want to sing*. Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: *What does God offer to us that makes our hearts want to sing joyfully?* (his mercy and forgiveness) Say: *Let us pray to accept Jesus’ gift of forgiveness*. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

### Explore: Pages 140–141

- ▶ Share a Sign of Peace with your child. Say: *We exchange this sign of peace to share with one another the peace that Jesus shares with us*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 140. Ask: *When do we receive the gifts of peace and forgiveness?* (in the Sacrament of Reconciliation) Read aloud The Peace of Forgiveness on page 141. Ask your child about the two types of sin described and the difference between them. (Mortal sin involves total rejection of God. Venial sins are less serious. They might be selfish or inconsiderate acts.) Have your child read aloud Jesus’ Words of Forgiveness and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Ask: *When do we share the Sign of Peace at Mass?* (after praying the Lord’s Prayer and before we receive Communion)

### Art Exploration: Page 142

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online an image of a work of art that represents reconciliation. As you look at it with your child, discuss how the images or symbols in this work of art convey the idea of reconciliation.
- ▶ Say: *Forgiving people is sometimes hard, but being a member of God’s family means making hard choices*. Have your child turn to page 142. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud page 142. Ask: *What gives us a feeling of peace?* (when we confess our sins and receive forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation)
- ▶ Read aloud Forgiveness. First, discuss the prompt with your child. Then have your child write about his or her experience and share it with you.

- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *This psalm expresses how God wants to give peace and forgiveness to his people. We receive both when we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*
- ▶ Ask: *What are some symbols of peace?* (flowers, clasped hands, doves) Give your child art supplies to make a poster using one of these symbols and adding a message.

### Reflect: Pages 143–144

- ▶ Together look at page 143. Say: *The boy in the picture is sincere in his prayer. He is following in Jesus' footsteps.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Lead your child in praying the Prayer of the Penitent. Spend time in silence thanking Jesus for his gift of forgiveness. Then pray together *Amen.*
- ▶ Read aloud Penance and Reconciliation on page 144. Ask: *How do you feel when someone you've hurt forgives you?* (happy, peaceful) Take turns reading aloud the situations presented in An Instrument of Peace. Guide your child to see which choice brings peace to both people. Say: *Remember that God wants us to forgive everyone, whether or not the person asks for our forgiveness.*

### Respond: Pages 145–146

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can forgive others and be willing to admit being wrong about something. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 146. Talk with your child about living as a forgiven and a forgiving person, forgiving others as we know that we are forgiven by God.