

Celebrating Reconciliation

Engage: Page 131

- ▶ Say: *Think of a time when you told someone you were sorry.* Ask: *Why do you think it can sometimes be hard to ask for forgiveness?* Read aloud the session title. Say: *In this session, we will learn about the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which is a visible sign of God's love and forgiveness. We will also learn that Jesus calls us to ask others for forgiveness when we cause harm.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Mark 2:1–12 from your Bible. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 131. Ask: *How do we heal our relationship with God and others when we sin?* (through the Sacrament of Reconciliation) Say: *Jesus taught us about God's healing forgiveness. Let's take a moment to be aware of Jesus in our hearts.* Pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 132–133

- ▶ Display a first-aid kit. Ask: *Why do we use items in a first-aid kit?* (to treat an injury) Say: *Sins are injuries to our relationship with God and with one another. God can repair these injuries through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud God's Forgiveness on page 132. Look up the word *repentance* in the Glossary. Ask: *When we are sorry and ask for God's forgiveness, what happens?* (Our sins are forgiven, and the divine life of the Holy Trinity is restored in us. We turn away from sin and back to God. We receive the grace to love God and others.) *What happens when we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation?* (Our relationship with God and the Church is restored.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: *What does this passage tell us about God?* (He is like a shepherd. He provides and cares for us and shows us how to live.)
- ▶ Read aloud page 133. Ask: *When do we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation?* (when we are ready to ask for God's forgiveness and for the grace to make better choices) Look up the word *penance* in the Glossary. Say: *A penance is an action or prayer that shows we are turning away from sin and returning to God.* Ask: *What do we receive when we celebrate Reconciliation?* (God's healing forgiveness and the joy and peace this brings)

Art Exploration: Page 134

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online an image that depicts Jesus as the Good Shepherd.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the job of the shepherd.
- ▶ Say: *Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and he calls us to repent when we have freely chosen to turn away from God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question on page 134.
- ▶ Read aloud The Lost Sheep. Ask: *What does a good shepherd do when he realizes he has lost one of his sheep?* (He goes out to look for the lost sheep.) Say: *God never stops looking for us. Repentance is our choice to turn away from sin and back to God.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Good Shepherd and complete the activity. (The solution to the puzzle is *Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves us and cares for us.*)
- ▶ Give your child construction paper in various colors and glue. Invite him or her to make a mosaic of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by tearing small pieces of construction paper and gluing them to another sheet. Display the artwork in your home.

Reflect: Pages 135–136

- ▶ Together look at page 135. Ask: *How do you think the boy in the picture feels?* (peaceful, thoughtful) Say: *Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we receive the grace to return to God.*
- ▶ Read aloud We Express Our Sorrow. Together pray aloud the Act of Contrition (Prayer of the Penitent). Pause after each sentence to give your child time to reflect on the meaning of the words. Conclude by praying *Amen* and praying the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Return to God on page 136. Ask: *What can we do when we need help to ask for forgiveness?* (We can pray to the Holy Spirit for the courage to say we are sorry.)
- ▶ Read aloud Ask for Forgiveness. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her ideas with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: *We can also celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with our Church community. Together, we acknowledge our need for grace and prepare ourselves for confession.*

Respond: Page 137

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 137. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to spend a moment reflecting on the question. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer with your child. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.

With My Family: Page 138

- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 138. As a family, complete the page and do the activity. Finally, pray the family prayer. Say: *Jesus, the Good Shepherd, always watches over us. He rejoices when we turn away from sin and turn our hearts back to God the Father.*