

Celebrating Reconciliation

Engage: Page 147

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Mark 2:1–12. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord***. Invite your child to respond, *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Tell your child about a time you broke something and tried to repair it. Say: ***It feels good to repair something. In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, Jesus repairs our relationship with the Father and others.*** Invite your child to read aloud the text on page 147. Say: ***Jesus showed that forgiveness and healing go hand in hand.***
- ▶ Say: ***Jesus loves us even when we do wrong. If we are sorry, he will always forgive us.*** Pray aloud the prayer and allow time for your child to reflect silently. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 148–149

- ▶ Remind your child about the story of Jesus and Jairus's daughter in Session 7. Explain that Jesus healed many other people during his life on earth, and point out that these physical healings were often accompanied by Jesus telling the healed person that his or her sins were forgiven.
- ▶ Ask: ***Why do you think Penance and Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick are called Sacraments of Healing?*** (They help restore or heal our relationships with God, others, and ourselves.) Invite your child to read aloud The Meaning of Sin in Our Lives on page 148. Review the difference between mortal sin and venial sin. Invite your child to summarize what he or she learned about the Sacraments of Healing and the meaning of sin in our lives.
- ▶ Ask your child to think about a time when he or she received forgiveness and how he or she felt afterward. Then invite your child to read aloud The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation on page 149. Emphasize that priests are bound by the sacramental seal of confession to keep secret what is confessed to them. Read aloud the first paragraph of The Rite of Reconciliation, then invite your child to read aloud each step of the rite. Say: ***In this sacrament, the priest forgives your sins in the name of Jesus. When we say Amen at the end, it means that we believe that we have truly received God's forgiveness.***

Art Print: Page 150

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus appearing to the Apostles after the Resurrection.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, particularly what Jesus is doing and how the Apostles seem to be feeling.

- ▶ Say: ***In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we celebrate God's forgiveness, receive absolution for our sins, and are reconciled with ourselves, God, and the Church.***
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 150. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first two paragraphs of Jesus Brings Us Peace and Forgiveness. Ask: ***What did Jesus do when he appeared to the Apostles?*** (He offered them peace, gave them a mission, and gave them the Spirit. He told them they had the authority to forgive sins.) Read aloud the third paragraph and the activity directions. Give your child time to complete the activity, then discuss his or her response.
- ▶ Invite your child to imagine the scene in the locked room with the Apostles. Encourage your child to think carefully about what each individual might have been feeling or thinking when Jesus appeared. Have your child draw a three-panel comic that depicts the sequence of events in the scene. Encourage your child to share his or her work with other family members.

Reflect: Pages 151–152

- ▶ Together look at page 151. Say: ***It is helpful to learn the Act of Contrition by heart. This helps you pray the prayer often and pray the full meaning of the words.***
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of Saying Sorry to God. Together, pray aloud the Act of Contrition. Read aloud the second paragraph. Say: ***Perhaps you have your own words to tell God you are sorry for your sins. If you do, try praying them now.*** Allow a few moments for personal reflection. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Provide your child with a Bible and invite him or her to read silently the parable of the forgiving father in Luke 15:11–24. Then have your child complete the activity and share his or her answers with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: ***What are transgressions?*** (sins, breaking a rule or law, doing wrong) Say: ***Jesus is saying that we need to forgive others for hurting us or doing us wrong.***

Respond: Pages 153–154

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 153. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and give your child time to reflect.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Review your child's answers, consulting the process of confession given on page 149 as necessary.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 154, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***We're blessed that the Lord's forgiveness is present in our lives. Let's take time to be grateful this week and share this forgiveness with others around us.***