



Sacraments, Our Way of Life

Begin

Ask: Who are teachers you remember most? Why do they stand out to you? (They made learning fun; they explained lessons in a way that I could understand.) Read aloud the unit title on page 91. **Say:** We're going to read about Saint Ignatius of Loyola, who believed education was important. Our new unit will help us encounter God's forgiveness, love, and generosity.

Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

Ask: What can you tell about Saint Ignatius of Loyola based on this picture? (He was a holy man.)

Have your child read aloud the paragraph. **Say:** Today there are about 20,000 Jesuits in the world, working in ministries such as education, parish ministry, and peace and justice. Through their ministry the Jesuits try to help people find God in the world around them. The Jesuits hope that everything they do brings glory to God.

Turn to page 92. Have your child read aloud the page. **Say:** Saint Ignatius of Loyola was inspired to change his life after reading about Jesus and the saints.

Ask: What did Saint Ignatius of Loyola do to show that he had changed? (He gave up his worldly lifestyle. He celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He traveled to a monastery. He became a priest.)

With your child add Ignatius's feast day, July 31, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the teachings of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.



Celebrating Reconciliation

Engage: Page 93

- ▶ **Say:** *Think of a time when someone hurt your feelings. Ask: How did you feel? How did you respond to that person? How did you show forgiveness to that person?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *Hugging or sharing another sign of peace is one way to show others that you are ready to forgive them. In this session we will learn about the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, which is a visible sign of God's love and forgiveness. We will also learn that Jesus calls us to share God's forgiveness with others.*
- ▶ Together act out situations in which one person might apologize to another. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 94–95

- ▶ Display a first-aid kit. **Ask:** *Why do we use items in a first-aid kit? (to treat an injury)* **Say:** *Sins are like invisible wounds that injure 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 94. **Ask:** *What do we do when we have contrition? (We ask God to forgive us. We turn away from sin and turn our hearts back to God.) 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 for the people in his flock.)*
- ▶ Read aloud page 95. **Ask:** *When do we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation? (when we are ready to ask God's forgiveness) What do we receive when we express our sorrow to God? (his healing forgiveness and the joy this brings)*

Art Exploration: Page 244

- ▶ 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 freely choose to turn away from God.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 244. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud The Lost Sheep. **Ask:** *What does a good shepherd do when he realizes he has lost one of his sheep?* (goes out to look for the lost sheep) **Say:** *Repentance is our choice to turn away from sin.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Good Shepherd and complete the activity.
- ▶ Give your child construction paper and glue. Invite him or her to make a mosaic of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by tearing small pieces of construction paper and gluing the pieces to another sheet. Display the artwork in your home.

Reflect: Pages 96–97

- ▶ Together look at page 96. **Ask:** *How does the girl in the picture look?* (sad) **Say:** *Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we receive the grace to return to God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Together pray aloud the Act of Contrition. Pause after each sentence to give your child time to reflect on the meaning of the words. Conclude by praying *Amen* and the Sign of the Cross together. Read aloud the last paragraph. Allow a few moments for your child to pray in the silence of his or her heart.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Return to God on page 97. **Ask:** *What does Jesus call us to do when we sin?* (return to God) *What can we do to accept an apology from others?* (Give the person a handshake or a hug. We can say “I forgive you.”)
- ▶ Read aloud Showing Forgiveness. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her ideas for forgiveness with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *Notice that each liturgical season has its own color.*

Respond: Page 98

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways to forgive someone who has hurt him or her.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.