

## Celebrating Reconciliation

### Engage: Page 105

- ▶ **Say:** *When we reconcile with someone, we heal a relationship that has been broken. Discuss times when both you and your child reconciled with a friend.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *In this session we'll learn why forgiveness is important, even when it is difficult.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she felt before and after a reconciliation. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 106–107

- ▶ Discuss stories that you know about Jesus healing the sick or read aloud Matthew 9:1–7 or Luke 5:17–26 in which Jesus heals the paralytic.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 106. **Ask:** *Why do you think Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick are called Sacraments of Healing? (They help restore or heal our relationships with God, others, and ourselves.) What is the difference between a mortal sin and a venial sin? (Mortal sin is a more serious or grave offense.)* Ask your child to summarize what he or she learned about the Sacraments of Healing and the meaning of sin in our lives.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud page 107. **Say:** *Remember that the priest will never talk to anyone about what you say to him. Also, the priest usually gives a penance that fits the sin.* **Ask:** *What does the word absolve mean? (to free from guilt)* **Say:** *By saying these words, the priest forgives your sins in the name of Jesus. Our Amen means that we believe that we have truly received God's forgiveness.*

### Art Exploration: Page 242

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus revealing himself to his apostles after he is risen.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what Jesus is doing and how his apostles are 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.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 242. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Brings Us Peace and Forgiveness. **Ask:** *What did Jesus do when he appeared to the apostles?* (He offered them peace. He sent them on a mission. He gave them the Spirit. He told them they have the authority to forgive sins.)
- ▶ Read aloud Learning to Forgive. Allow time for your child to complete the prayer.
- ▶ Have your child imagine he or she is one of the apostles in the room. Ask your child to illustrate a pictorial of what happened in the locked room in the style of a comic book. Encourage your child to read the Bible passage about the event to get the full depth of the miracle. Display the artwork in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 108–109

- ▶ Together look at page 108. **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.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. Together pray aloud the Act of Contrition. Read aloud the last two paragraphs, pausing to give your child time to reflect on the question. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 109. Have your child read silently the parable of the forgiving father in Luke 15:11–24. Then have him or her complete the activity and share the summary with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. **Ask:** *What are transgressions?* (sins, breaking a rule or law, doing wrong)

### Respond: Page 110

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to share times when he or she forgave someone who has done wrong to 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.