



Celebrating Reconciliation

Engage: Page 69

- ▶ With your child role-play this situation: A friend promises to play with you after school but forgets and goes to play at a different person's house. **Ask:** *What do you say to your friend the next time you see him or her?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *Jesus helps us recognize our sins. He also helps us learn forgiveness. In this session we will learn how to do this.*
- ▶ Discuss times when you and your child have reconciled with friends. Talk about how you each felt after making up with a friend. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 70–71

- ▶ Share a childhood story with your child about a time you disobeyed or disappointed someone you loved. Highlight the consequences of your actions and how you made peace with that person.
- ▶ Read aloud Making Peace with God on page 70 and point out the vocabulary words. **Ask:** *What is one thing both kinds of sin have in common?* (They hurt our relationship with God and with others.) **Say:** *God gives us the wonderful chance to be forgiven through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. We confess our sins to a priest, tell God we are sorry, and receive God's forgiveness.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *When we gather for Mass, we admit to God and one another that we do not always do what we should. Together we ask for God's forgiveness.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 71. Point out the vocabulary term. **Say:** *Let's turn to pages 212 and 213. Discuss these pages and explain that these types of questions help us think about what we will confess to Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *A penance is a prayer or a deed we do to make up for our sins.*

Art Exploration: Page 246

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus talking to Zacchaeus in the tree.



- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the locations of the man in the tree and Jesus.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus is always happy when we make efforts to be closer to him.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 246. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Zacchaeus, the Rich Man. **Ask:** *Why did the crowd become angry?* (Jesus was going to the home of a sinner.) *What did Jesus tell Zacchaeus?* (that he was saved that day)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Forgive One Another and complete the activity. Share with your child what you think forgiveness means.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Together with your child read aloud the verse again.
- ▶ Read this rhyme aloud and demonstrate the action after each line. Ask your child to join you and read the rhyme again. **Say:** *Zacchaeus had to climb a tree.* (mime climbing up) *For it was Jesus he longed to see.* (hands like binoculars) *When Jesus asked him to come down,* (mime climbing down) *Zacchaeus turned his life around.* (turn around) *He made peace with God, you see.* (pretend to shake hands as if greeting someone) *He walked in love through God's mercy.* (put hands on heart)

Reflect: Pages 72–73

- ▶ Together look at page 72 and read aloud the heading. **Ask:** *What do you think the boy in the picture is ready to ask God?* **Say:** *We are going to learn the Act of Contrition. Contrition is the sadness we feel when we know we have sinned.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Invite your child to pray aloud the Act of Contrition with you. At the end ask your child to take a few moments to talk to Jesus in his or her heart.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Forgives on page 73. **Say:** *After God has forgiven us, we have a pure heart, free from sin. We feel joyful and holy.*
- ▶ Read aloud A Pure Heart and have your child complete the activity. **Say:** *Tell God how good you feel when he forgives your sins, making your heart pure and holy.*

Respond: Page 74

- ▶ 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 suggest specific ways he or she can show forgiveness to others.
- ▶ 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.