



The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Engage: Page 75

- ▶ **Say:** *Words can hurt people, but words can heal too. Ask: When our unkind words hurt people, what can you say to heal the hurt? ("I'm sorry." "Please forgive me." "Let's be friends again." "I wish I could take it back.")*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *Reconciliation is a sacrament. A sacrament is a special sign that God is with us. In this session we will continue to learn about how we can make up with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*
- ▶ **Ask:** *How do you know when you hurt someone you care about? Have your child think about how he or she feels when this happens. Pray aloud the prayer together.*

Explore: Pages 76–77

- ▶ Ask your child to make a poster that shows signs and symbols of peace. At the top of the poster, tell him or her to write *May God give you pardon and peace*. Display the poster in your home.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud *We Are Forgiven* on page 76. **Say:** *Jesus forgives us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Point to the vocabulary word *absolution*. Say: Absolution is the forgiveness God offers us when we say we are sorry for our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*
- ▶ Read aloud the *Link to Liturgy* feature and point out the vocabulary term. **Say:** *When you receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the priest cannot tell anyone anything you have confessed to him.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first three paragraphs on page 77. **Say:** *After confession we are filled with peace in our hearts.* Together turn to pages 214 and 215 of your child's book to read the section *How to Go to Confession*.
- ▶ Read aloud the *Ready for the Sacraments* feature. **Say:** *The wonderful thing about the Sacrament of Reconciliation is that God frees us from the burden of our sins.*

Art Exploration: Page 247

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the four friends lowering a paralyzed man through the roof to meet Jesus.



- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the men are doing.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus heals and forgives us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 247. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Jesus Heals*. **Say:** *The paralyzed man cannot see Jesus without the help of his friends.* **Ask:** *How do they help?* (They carry their friend to Jesus and lower him through the roof.) *Who are some people in your life that help you grow close to God?* (family, friends, priests)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Friendship* and complete the activity. Share with your child your own experience of friendship.
- ▶ Invite your child to role-play these situations that teach how to be a good friend: a friend is worried about a sick pet; a friend broke an arm and needs help doing things; a friend has to do chores before playing with you. At the end of each role-play, talk about how being a good friend made your child feel.

Reflect: Pages 78–79

- ▶ Together look at page 78. **Ask:** *How do you think the girl in the picture feels?* **Say:** *God always helps us ask for forgiveness when we sin.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 78, pausing after each paragraph to give your child time to respond in his or her heart. **Say:** *We can pray the Act of Contrition anytime to tell God that we are sorry for something we have done and to ask for his help.* Pray aloud the Act of Contrition together.
- ▶ Read aloud *Peace Be with You* on page 79 and discuss the question. Have your child read aloud *Making Peace* and complete the sentences. Invite him or her to read aloud the completed sentences.
- ▶ Read aloud the *Reading God's Word* feature. **Say:** *Jesus offers us the peace that comes with forgiveness.*

Respond: Page 80

- ▶ 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 be a peacemaker at home and at school.
- ▶ 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.