

Reconciliation

Pardon and Peace

online **FAMILY**
guide



PRIMARY

Reconciliation

Pardon and Peace

online **FAMILY** guide

Peter Esposito
President

Anne P. Battes
Publisher

Mary Malloy
Project Editor

General Editors
Sister Catherine Dooley, O.P.
Monsignor Thomas McDade, Ed. D.



Cincinnati, OH

Table of Contents



Welcome	4
Chapter 1: God's Love	5
Chapter 1: Activity Page	8
Chapter 2: Loving God	9
Chapter 2: Activity Page	12
Chapter 3: Refusing to Love	13
Chapter 3: Activity Page	16
Chapter 4: Loving Choices	17
Chapter 4: Activity Page	20
Chapter 5: Returning to Love	21
Chapter 5: Activity Page	24
Chapter 6: Celebrating God's Love	25
Chapter 6: Activity Page	28
Chapter 7: Showing Love	29
Chapter 7: Activity Page	32
Chapter 8: Living Reconciliation	33

Welcome!

RCL Benziger's ***Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace*** Family Guide will help you teach your child about God's forgiving love and how Catholics celebrate the Lord's mercy and peace in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Not only will you be preparing your daughter or son to celebrate Penance and Reconciliation for the first time, you will also be building a solid foundation for the lifelong journey of conversion. This journey calls us to turn away from sin and to live as God's children.

Here are a few suggestions for using the Family Guide to prepare your child to celebrate Penance and Reconciliation for the first time.

1. Plan on completing one chapter a week.
2. Set a regular and convenient time to meet each week. This will ensure that your learning sessions are a priority.
3. Plan where you will meet in your home. Choose a place where you can work with your child without interruptions or distractions.
4. Download the weekly lesson and chapter activity sheet for each lesson. (Note: There is no activity sheet for Chapter 8.)
5. Read the weekly lesson plan and the chapter in your child's book before each session.
6. Before each session, gather the supplies you will need. These are listed in the family lesson plans under Materials Needed.
7. If you wish to incorporate the music, stories, and DVDs suggested under Additional Resources, check to see if they are available from your parish resource center or local library. You may want to order your own *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD from RCL Benziger (RCLBenziger.com or 1-877-275-4725).
8. Participate in parish events planned for families participating in the First Penance and Reconciliation program.

Remember that preparing your son or daughter for the celebration of First Penance and Reconciliation is a privilege. It affords you a unique opportunity to grow closer to your child, to share your faith, and to deepen your personal relationship with the Lord.

May this time of preparation and your child's celebration of First Penance and Reconciliation be a time of great blessing and joy!

Introduction

Preparation for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation begins with an appreciation of our Baptism, through which Original Sin and personal sins are forgiven and we are reborn into new life in Christ. There is a strong connection between the Sacraments of Baptism and Penance and Reconciliation. In them we acknowledge our sinfulness and celebrate God's forgiveness and love. We experience God's pardon, peace, healing, and mercy.

In Chapter 1, you and your child will explore the parable of the Lost Sheep. This parable is all about God's faithful love. As your child prepares to celebrate Penance and Reconciliation for the first time, it is important that he or she begins to understand that no matter how far we may stray from living as God calls us to live, God will always love us and welcome us back. Remember that the love you show for your child on a daily basis serves as that powerful sign and example of God's everlasting love for all his children.

Chapter Goals

After completing this lesson your child will be able to:

- Give examples of God's love
- Explain that Jesus came to bring people back to God's love
- Identify Baptism as the Sacrament that takes away Original Sin and gives the new life of God's grace

Materials Needed

- Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* student book, primary level
- Pencil or crayons
- A small, clear bowl of water
- Chapter 1 activity sheet

Additional Resources (Optional)

- Psalm 100: We Are God's People (from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD)
- The Joyful Shepherd* (Cyncie Smith/New Hope Publishers)
- Even if I Did Something Awful* (Barbara Shook Hazen/Aladdin Publishing)



Chapter 1 • God's Love

Beginning the Lesson

1. Turn to page 5 in the student book. Read aloud the chapter title.
2. Prayerfully read together the opening Scripture verse from Romans.
3. Read with your child the opening story, Everyone is Here, and discuss the questions.

Sharing the Scripture Story

1. Read aloud the title on page 6.
2. Discuss ways that a shepherd cares for his or her flock.
3. Read together The Lost Sheep and discuss the Let's Talk questions on page 7.
4. Invite your child to complete the [Chapter 1 activity sheet](#). Point out that the sheep is a reminder of God's never-ending love for us.
5. Summarize by repeating together the Word of God Scripture verse.

Exploring Catholic Teaching

1. Read aloud the first paragraph of God Saves on page 8.
2. Discuss reasons people turn away from God.
3. Help your child understand that Adam and Eve made a choice to turn away from God.
4. Read and discuss the remainder of page 8.
5. Help your child learn about the connection between Baptism and Penance and Reconciliation by reading and discussing page 9.
6. Turn to page 74 in the *A Little Catechism* section of the book. Review together the description of Baptism.
7. Pray together the prayer in the We Celebrate box on page 9.
8. Ask your child to underline the names we use to describe the Persons of the Holy Trinity: God and Father, Lord Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit.

Completing the Activity

1. Explain the story writing (or drawing) activity on page 10 and have your child complete it.
2. Read aloud Parish Connection. Each time you go to church, be sure to invite family members to sign themselves with holy water as a reminder of their Baptism.

Chapter 1 • God's Love

Celebrating

1. Place the bowl of water on your family prayer table or on the table at which you are seated. Invite your child to offer the following prayer with you:

Loving God,
you created the waters of the earth
and provide us with the water we need
for refreshment and life.

May the water before us
remind us of our Baptism,
when we were freed from sin
and given new life in Christ.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
AMEN.

2. Use the water to bless yourselves as you make the Sign of the Cross.
3. Pray together We Are God's People on page 11. You may also wish to play and/or sing Psalm 100: We Are God's People from the RCL Benziger *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD. (The lyrics are on page 91 of the student book.)

Sharing the Home and Family Page

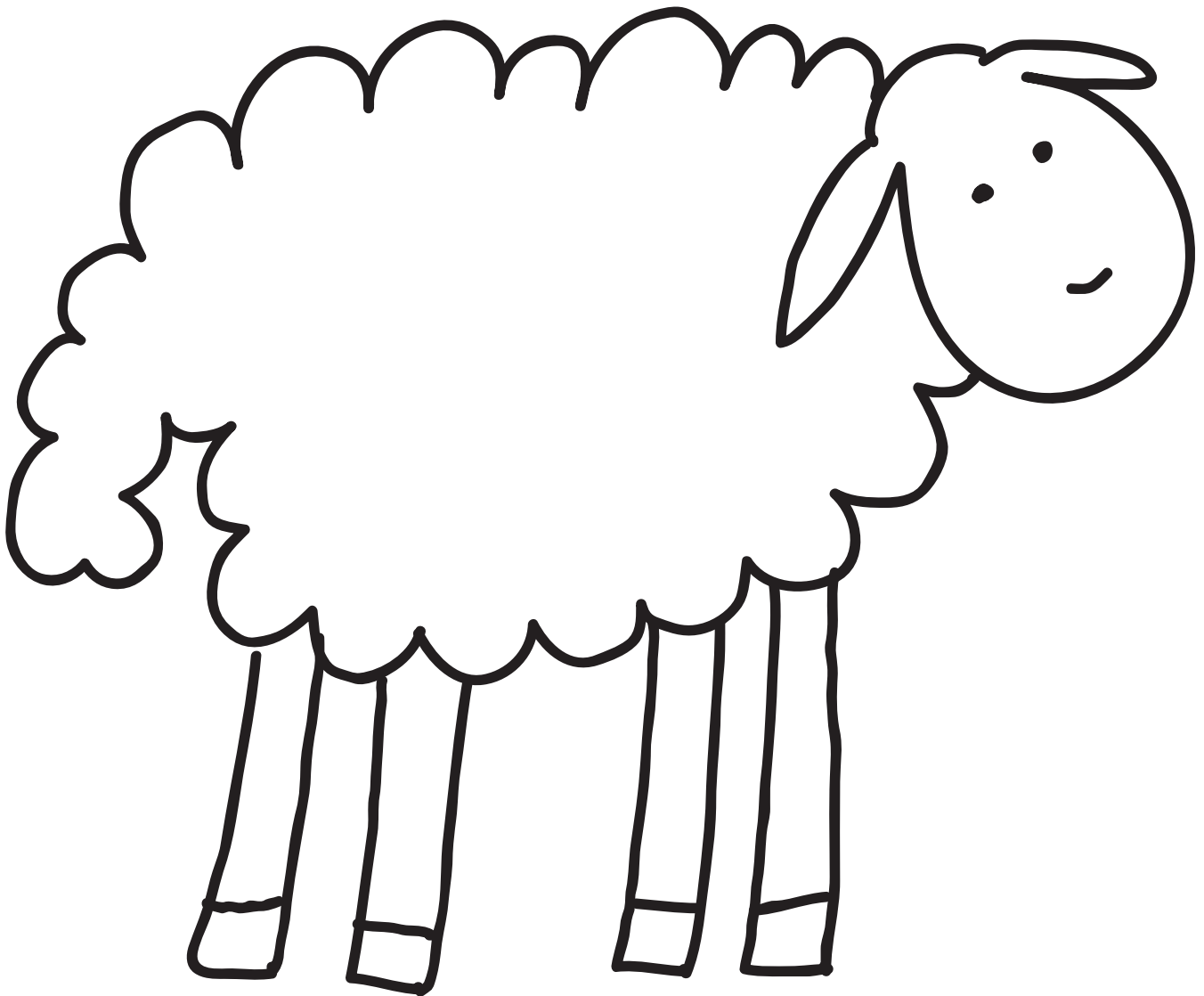
Read, discuss, and complete page 12.

Name _____ Date _____

A Sheep of His Flock

Write your name on the drawing of the sheep. Cut out the sheep. Glue the sheet to a heavy piece of paper. Take your sheep home and show it to your family.

One of God's Sheep



Copyright © RCL Publishing LLC

Loving God

2

Introduction

In Chapter 1 your child and you reflected on how much God loves us. In this chapter, your child will learn that Jesus taught us the Great Commandment to help us understand how God wants us to live. Living according to God's Law requires us to love God, our neighbor, and ourselves.

Long ago, God established the Covenant with his people. God chose us to be his people. We respond by choosing to live according to God's commands. The Covenant is fulfilled in Jesus, the new and everlasting Covenant. Jesus came to Earth to teach us how to live. He taught us that living with love is the way to eternal life, or happiness forever with God.

As you study Chapter 2 with your child, emphasize that God's Laws and all moral teachings are rooted in love. Help your child to understand that God knows what is best for us and wants each of us to be happy forever. We can only be truly happy when we live in love.

Chapter Goals

After completing this lesson your child will be able to:

- Identify ways to show love for God and others
- Name the Great Commandment
- Understand that we keep the Covenant by following God's Law

Materials Needed

- Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* student book, primary level
- Pencil or crayons
- A candle and matches
- Chapter 2 activity sheet

Additional Resources (Optional)

- Christ Be Our Light
(from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD)
- The Runaway Bunny* (Margaret Wise Brown/Harper Collins)



Chapter 2 • Loving God

Beginning the Lesson

1. Turn to page 13 in the student book. Read aloud the chapter title.
2. Prayerfully read together the opening Scripture verse from Psalm 143.
3. Read Mom's Rule, and use the questions to discuss the story. Help your child to understand that God wanted Eric to obey his mother and that God wanted to Eric's mother to keep her children safe.

Sharing the Scripture Story

1. Read aloud the Scripture story from Luke on pages 14 and 15.
2. Use the Let's Talk questions to discuss the meaning of the story.
3. Ask your child to talk about how it feels to break a rule or choose to do something they know is not right. Share your own experience, too.
4. Read aloud the Word of God on page 14. Explain that the peace of mind we feel when we follow God's Law is a sign of God's love for us.

Exploring Catholic Teaching

1. Read Loving God on page 16 with your child.
2. Turn to page 85 and discuss the meaning of each of the Ten Commandments listed on the page.
3. Return to page 16 and read together The Great Commandment. Review the concept of covenant by reading aloud This We Believe.
4. Focus on the activity at the bottom of page 17 and have your child complete it.
5. Affirm your child's ideas for showing love for God and others. Reinforce the teaching of the Great Commandment by working with your child to complete the [Chapter 2 activity sheet](#).

Completing the Activity

1. Begin by explaining that Jesus' followers are called to love others as he did. This call to love should affect the choices we make every day.
2. Invite your child to complete the maze activity on page 18.
3. Read aloud the Parish Connection. Together discuss other ways we can honor specific Commandments.

Chapter 2 • Loving God

Celebrating

1. Light the candle on your family prayer table or on the table at which you are seated.
2. Pray together Give Us Light on page 19.
3. Conclude by singing or by listening together to Christ Be Our Light on the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD. (The lyrics for the song are on page 91 of the student book.)

Sharing the Home and Family Page

Read, discuss, and complete page 20.

Name _____ Date _____

My Covenant with God

Read the covenant. Fill in the blanks. Sign and date your covenant with God. Put it in a place where you will see it.

I, _____,
(Your name)

know God's great love for me.

I know that God promises to love me and be with me always.

I promise to be faithful to my covenant with God.

I will love God by _____.

I will love others as I love myself by _____.

With God's help, I will be true to my covenant.

Signed _____

Date _____

Refusing to Love

3

Introduction

God gives us his grace. Grace is God's very life in us, his faithful love, his mercy and forgiveness, and his help to grow in holiness. Free will is another powerful gift from God.

God does not force us to choose his way of love. We have the power to decide to follow God's Law or to turn away from God in sin. Sin is a conscious choice to do what we know is wrong and against God's Law.

God's mercy is stronger than any sin or any temptation to sin. When we are truly sorry for our sins, God is always ready to forgive us. We celebrate God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

As you work together on Chapter 3, help your child understand the difference between sin and an accident or a mistake. Emphasize that although we all sin, we can be reconciled with God and others through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Chapter Goals

After completing this lesson your child will be able to:

- Define sin and the different types of sin
- Describe how sin hurts our relationship with God and others
- Explain that the Church celebrates God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation



Materials Needed

- Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* student book, primary level
- Pencil
- Chapter 3 activity sheet

Additional Resources (Optional)

- Change Our Hearts (from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* CD)
- Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* (John Steptoe/Lothrop, Lee, and Shepherd Books)

Chapter 3 • Refusing to Love

Beginning the Lesson

1. Turn to page 21 in the student book. Read aloud the chapter title.
2. Prayerfully read together the Scripture verse from Psalm 95.
3. Invite your child to read aloud I Say “No!”.
4. Discuss the questions together.

Sharing the Scripture Story

1. Introduce the Scripture story by reading aloud the paragraph on page 22. Ask your child to listen for the reason people in the Scripture story might be surprised.
2. Read together the Scripture story from Matthew 25. Help your child understand that the king in the story represents Jesus.
3. Explain that Christ teaches us that when we fail to love our neighbor, we fail to love God.
4. Work with your child to do the Loving Choices activity on page 23.

Exploring Catholic Teaching

1. Read aloud the first paragraph on page 24. Point out the photographs on the pages and invite your child to describe if the children in the pictures are saying yes or no to God’s love.
2. Read the last two paragraphs on page 24. Ask your child to repeat the definition for **sin**.
3. Turn to page 86 of *A Little Catechism* and review question 1.
4. Together read Sin Hurts and Celebrating Forgiveness on page 25. Emphasize that penance and reconciliation are both aspects of forgiveness.
5. Conclude by having your child complete the [Chapter 3 activity sheet](#).

Completing the Activity

1. Explain the directions to the activity on page 26 and have your child complete it.
2. Read aloud the Parish Connection box. Explain that we call this part of the Mass the Penitential Act.

Chapter 3 • Refusing to Love

Celebrating

1. Ask your child to close his or her eyes as you read aloud the meditation on page 27.
2. Sing or listen together to Change Our Hearts on the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD. (The lyrics for this song are on page 91 of the student book.)
3. Exchange a sign of Christ's peace.

Sharing the Home and Family Page

Read, discuss, and complete page 28.

“No” and “Yes”

Read the clues. Put the correct letter on each numbered line to solve the word puzzle. Then color the frame. Hang up this page at home as a reminder to say yes to Jesus.

Clues

1. The letter that is shaped like a wiggly snake.
2. The letter that is a straight line.
3. The letter that comes after M and before O.
4. The letter that comes right before M.
5. The letter that is a circle.
6. The letter that looks like half of a W.
7. The letter that comes after D and before F.

NO! Jesus wants me to say No to

(1) (2) (3)

and say Yes to

(4) (5) (6) (7)

YES!

Loving Choices

4

Introduction

Developing a well-formed conscience is essential to our lifelong journey of conversion to Christ. Conscience is a loving gift from God that helps us make good moral choices.

Our conscience is formed and guided by help from God, including the grace of the Holy Spirit, Sacred Scripture, the Ten Commandments, and the teachings of the Church.

Your child needs help and guidance to develop good moral reasoning skills. In this chapter you will have the opportunity to explore choices and consider consequences together. This will help prepare your child to begin to make moral choices on his or her own.

Assist your child in this task by affirming his or her increasing ability to choose to do what is right, just, and loving in daily life.

Chapter Goals

After completing this lesson your child will be able to:

- Name the three steps in making good moral choices
- Apply moral decision-making skills to concrete situations
- Understand what it means to examine one's conscience

Materials Needed

- Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* student book, primary level
- Pencil
- Chapter 4 activity sheet

Additional Resources (Optional)

- Children of God
(from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD)
- Harriet and the Garden* (Nancy Carlson/ Carolrhoda Books)
- Judge Judy Sheindlin's Win or Lose by How You Choose* (Judy Sheindlin/HarperCollins)



Chapter 4 • Loving Choices

Beginning the Lesson

1. Open the child's book to page 29.
2. Pray together the verse from Psalm 119.
3. Read and discuss You Decide. Help your child consider the two choices Lisa can make and the consequences of each choice.

Sharing the Scripture Story

1. Together read On Solid Rock on page 30. Discuss the question at the bottom of the page. Help your child recognize that when we make good choices, we are like the wise people Jesus mentions in the story.
2. Discuss the choices in the What is the Message? stories on page 31. If possible, invite other family members to join you in acting out each of the scenes.
3. Help your child (and family members) understand that making choices in real life is sometimes very difficult.

Exploring Catholic Teaching

1. Read pages 32 and 33 aloud and discuss the Let's Talk questions.
2. Summarize your discussion by reading aloud the Catholic Practices statement.
3. Turn to page 71 in *A Little Catechism* and read together statements 17 and 18.
4. Explain that the Ten Commandments, the teachings of Jesus, and God's Word all help us know right from wrong.

Completing the Activity

1. Invite your child to complete the On Rock or Sand? activity on page 34.
2. Discuss the choices your child made. If he or she had difficulty making the right choice in any of the situations, review the steps for making moral choices.
3. Give your child time to complete the [Chapter 4 activity sheet](#).
4. Conclude the activity by reflecting on An Examination of Conscience on page 87 in *A Little Catechism*. Pause after each question to allow your child time to reflect on how he or she is living as a child of God.

Chapter 4 • Loving Choices

Celebrating

1. Pray together the litany on page 35.
2. Join hands as you pray together the Lord's Prayer.
3. Conclude by singing or listening to Children of God from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD. (The lyrics for the song can be found on page 92.)

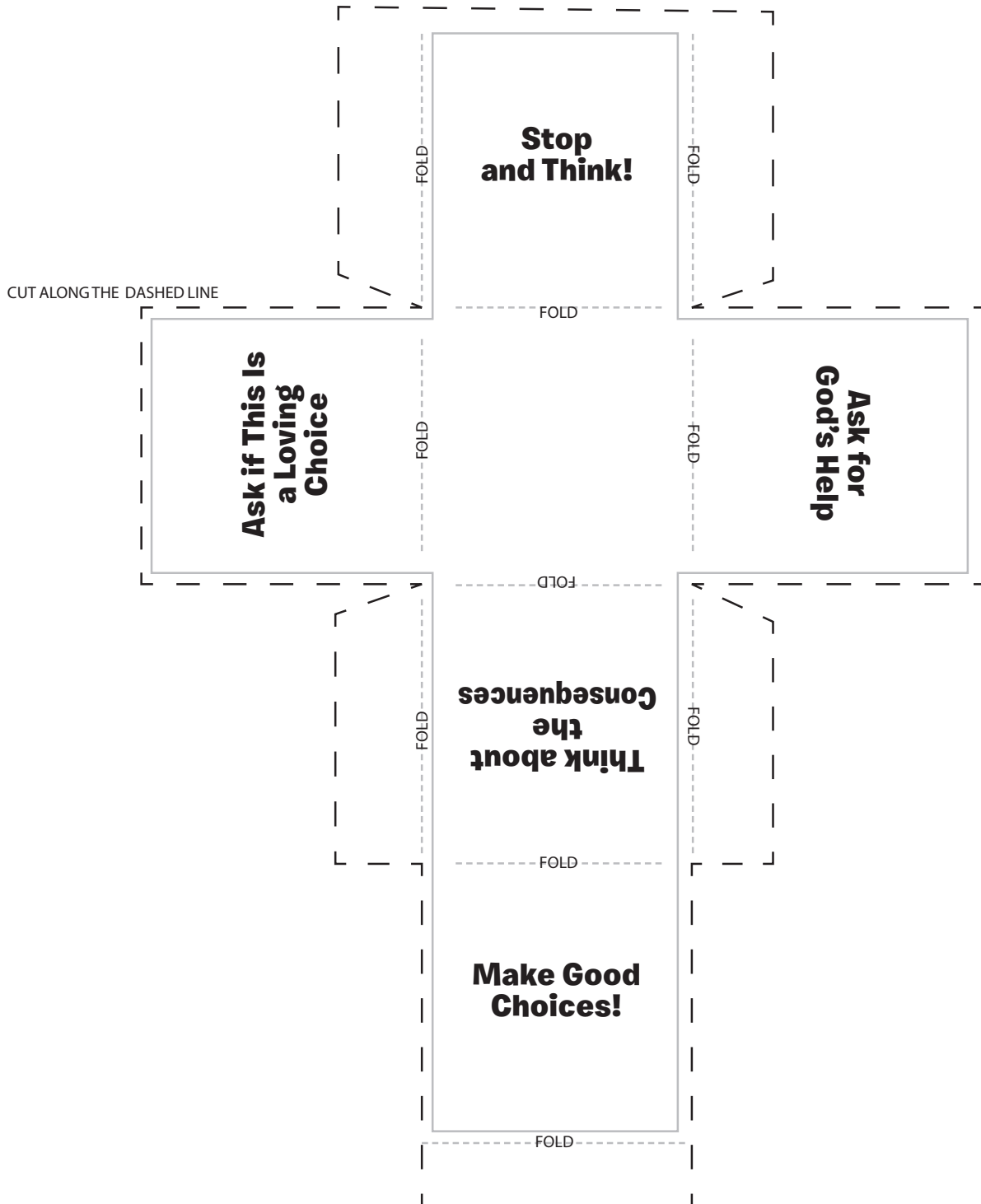
Sharing the Home and Family Page

Read, discuss, and complete page 36.

Name _____ Date _____

Good Choices Cube

Color the pattern inside the solid lines. Then cut it out. Fold and tape the pattern together to make a cube. Put the cube on your desk or a table at home to remind you of how to make good choices.



Copyright © RCL Publishing LLC

Returning to Love

5

Introduction

In this week's lesson your child and you will read the parable of the Forgiving Father, often called the parable of the Prodigal Son. In this familiar story, the actions of the father toward his son reveal God's love and mercy for all his children who return to him seeking forgiveness.

Help your child make the connection between the story and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, through which we ask for and receive God's forgiveness.

In this session you will also introduce your child to the ways in which we return to God's friendship after we have sinned. As your child learns about contrition, confessing one's sins to a priest, and doing a penance as a sign of willingness to make up for wrongdoing, emphasize that we can always come to God with our sorrow.

Chapter Goals

After completing this lesson your child will be able to:

- Retell and share the meaning of the parable of the Forgiving Father
- Name the steps of Penance and Reconciliation
- Begin to learn the Act of Contrition

Materials Needed

- Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* student book, primary level
- Pencil
- Paper
- Chapter 5 activity sheet

Additional Resources (Optional)

- Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful (from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD)
- Where the Wild Things Are* (Maurice Sendak/HarperCollins)
- Let's Be Friends Again* (Hans Wilhelm/Hodder & Stoughton General Division)



Chapter 5 • Returning to Love

Beginning the Lesson

1. Open the child's book to page 37, and read together the chapter title.
2. Pray together the verse from Psalm 41.
3. Invite your child to share what he or she sees happening in the illustration.
4. Have your child read aloud the poem *The Right Words*. Then discuss the questions on page 37.

Sharing the Scripture Story

1. Read together the story *Going Home* on pages 38 and 39.
2. Invite your child to identify the pictures on these pages that match each section of the story.
3. Ask your child to imagine being the son in the story, and to describe what the son felt as the story unfolded.
4. Do the same by having your child imagine being the father in the story. Ask your child to describe what the father felt as the story unfolded.
5. Have your child respond to the *Let's Talk* question. Summarize by reading aloud the Word of God.
6. Emphasize that we can always turn to God for guidance and help.

Exploring Catholic Teaching

1. Read and discuss pages 40 and 41.
2. Have your child find and underline the words **contrition** and **penance**. Clarify the meaning of these words. Read aloud *This We Believe*.
3. Slowly read aloud *We Celebrate*. Point out that these words are part of the Rite of Penance.

Completing the Activity

1. Explain the activity on page 42 and have your child complete it.
2. Direct attention to the Catholic Practices box. Remind your child when and why we celebrate Lent.
3. Allow time for your child to write his or her note to God. The completed letter can be used as a bedtime prayer for the coming week.
5. Review with your child the process for celebrating Penance and Reconciliation by helping him or her complete the [Chapter 5 activity sheet](#).

Chapter 5 • Returning to Love

Celebrating

1. Introduce the Act of Contrition on page 43. Help your child begin to memorize the prayer by praying it together daily. (Another help in memorizing the prayer is to omit key words as you pray the prayer aloud and ask your child to supply the missing words.)
2. Turn to the We Pray section of *A Little Catechism* on page 88. Point out that the Act of Contrition is located in this section.
3. Sing or listen to Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD. The lyrics for the song can be found on page 92.
4. Conclude by praying together the Act of Contrition.

Sharing the Home and Family Page

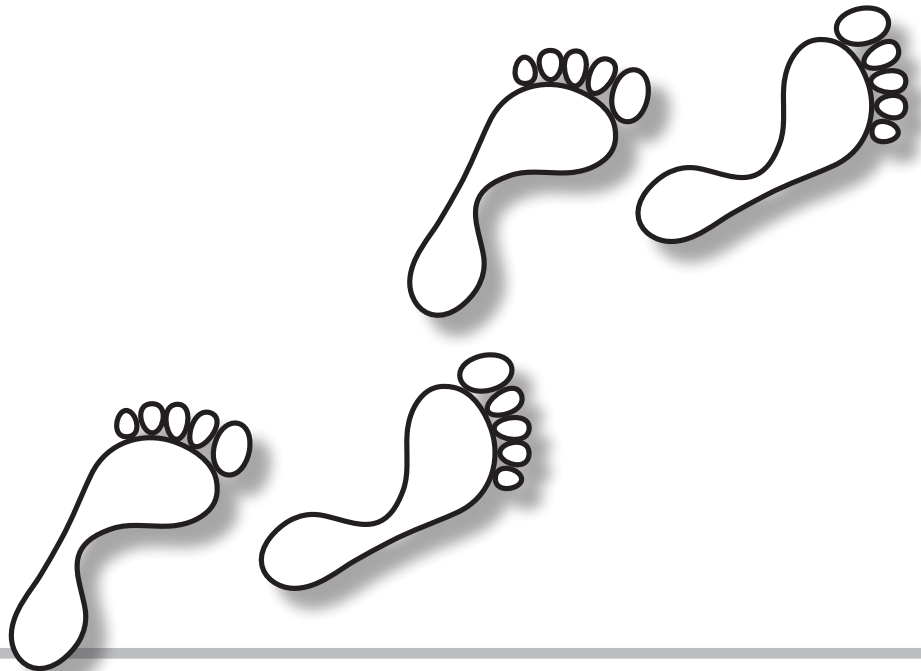
Read, discuss, and complete page 44.

Asking God's Forgiveness

Use the words from the Word Bank to complete the steps to asking for God's forgiveness. Take the list of steps home to help you remember.

Word Bank

better
wrong choices
forgiveness
penance
contrition



1. Admit that you made _____.
2. Say you are sorry. (The sorrow you feel is called _____.)
3. Ask God's _____.
4. Promise to do _____.
5. Do a _____ to help you make up for what you did wrong.



Celebrating God's Love

6

Introduction

In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation we express sorrow for our sins and we express our intent to sin no more. We make our confession to God and say that we will try to do what is right and good in the future. During the celebration of this Sacrament we also listen to the words of forgiveness and encouragement spoken by the priest. We are forgiven by God and we experience pardon and peace. We are reconciled with God, ourselves, and with each other.

As your child learns more about the Rite of Reconciliation, he or she may express concern about the necessity of sharing his or her sins with a priest. Assure your child that anything he or she tells the priest is kept in confidence. Help your child understand that the priest represents God's love and care, and that in God's name and in the name of God's Church the priest forgives, or absolves us from our sins.

Chapter Goals

After completing this lesson your child will be able to:

- Share the story of how Zacchaeus became a friend of Jesus
- List the steps of the Rite of Penance
- Understand that in Penance and Reconciliation we are absolved from sin in the name of God and in the name of the Church

Materials Needed

- Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* student book, primary level
- Watercolor paints or markers
- Drawing paper
- Index card
- Pencil
- Chapter 6 activity sheet

Additional Resources (Optional)

- Give Us Your Peace (from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD)
- Charlotte's Web* (Warner Home Video, 2006)



Chapter 6 • Celebrating God's Love

Beginning the Lesson

1. Pray with your child the verse from Psalm 32 on page 45.
2. Read All Better Now.
3. Give your child time to complete an All Better picture.

Sharing the Scripture Story

1. Read the story Saved! on pages 46 and 47.
2. Use the Let's Talk questions to help your child recall the details of what happened in the story of Jesus' meeting with Zacchaeus.
3. Invite your child to name things he or she can do to become a closer friend of Jesus. Ask your child to think about ways he or she needs to change in order to do so.
4. Emphasize that stories like the parable of the Lost Sheep and the parable of the Forgiving Father help us understand that Jesus came to look for and to save people who are lost, people who have sinned.

Exploring Catholic Teaching

1. Read about and discuss each step of the Rite of Penance on pages 48 and 49.
2. Help your child understand the meanings of the words **penitent** and **absolution**.
3. Role-play the Rite of Penance with your child or with other family members. When it comes time to name or confess sins, tell your child to silently think of his or her sins rather than say them aloud. Remind your child that the sins we confess in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation are private.
4. Turn to page 77 in the *A Little Catechism* section. With your child compare the words we use in the Penitential Act of the Mass with the words we pray during the celebration of Penance and Reconciliation.
5. Summarize by reading together This We Believe.

Chapter 6 • Celebrating God's Love

Completing the Activity

1. Invite your child to complete the Make a Reminder Card activity by using the space on page 50 or an index card for listing the steps of celebrating the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Put the page or the index card in a place where it can be reviewed daily as your child's first celebration of the Sacrament nears.
2. Also review the steps for celebrating the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation by having your child complete the [Chapter 6 activity sheet](#).
3. Read together Finish the Story on page 50. This activity will help your child consider what happens after the celebration of the Sacrament and how it feels to make a fresh start.
4. Read aloud the Parish Connection box. Refer to a parish bulletin for information regarding when Penance and Reconciliation is celebrated in your parish.

Celebrating

1. Pray together the Lord, Have Mercy litany on page 51.
2. Sing or listen to Give Us Your Peace from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD. The lyrics can be found on page 93 of the student book.
3. Conclude by praying together the Act of Contrition on page 88. (Continue to help your child memorize this prayer for his or her first celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.)

Sharing the Home and Family Page

Read, discuss, and complete page 52.

The Rite of Penance

Number the steps for celebrating the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation in the correct order. Put a "1" next to the thing that happens first, a "2" next to the thing that happens second, and so on. Then draw a line from each step to the picture that best shows it.

Steps

Pictures

___ You share God's Word.

___ The priest gives you absolution.

___ You are sent forth.

___ You are greeted.

___ You pray a prayer of contrition.

___ The priest gives you a penance.

___ You confess your sins to the priest.



Showing Love

7

Introduction

Jesus calls all of his followers to a conversion of heart. He calls us to realize that we need to change our lives and to turn away from what is keeping us from doing what is right. Recognizing our need for conversion is the first step toward experiencing pardon and peace.

Foster your child's awareness of how to live as Jesus calls us to live. Encourage your child to make good choices, even when it is not easy. Support his or her efforts to be generous and charitable. Urge your child to practice self-control.

In turn, live as Jesus calls you to live. Be an example of kindness and love for your child. Help your child see the consequences of his or her actions. Emphasize how important it is to forgive others as God forgives, and model such forgiveness in the home.

Chapter Goals

After completing this lesson your child will be able to:

- Describe the effects of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation
- Define **virtue** and give examples of how we can practice virtues
- Explain the connection between being forgiven and forgiving others



Materials Needed

- Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* student book, primary level
- Unlined index card
- Markers and crayons
- Sheet of construction paper
- Pencil or pen
- Chapter 7 activity sheet

Additional Resources (Optional)

- Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo/ We Are the Body of Christ* from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD.
- All Things New* (James Bitney/ Franciscan Media)
- The Quarreling Book* (Charlotte Zolotow/HarperTrophy)

Chapter 7 • Showing Love

Beginning the Lesson

1. Pray with your child the verse from 1 John on page 53.
2. Read with your child Pass It Around and complete the activity.
3. Explain that God wants his love for us to be a model for how we are to love others.

Sharing the Scripture Story

1. Read the story Great Love on pages 54 and 55.
2. Discuss the meaning of the story using the Let's Talk questions.
3. Help your child recognize the powerful connection between forgiveness and love.
4. Proclaim the Word of God from Psalm 119. Encourage your child to always seek, or try to follow, God's commands.

Exploring Catholic Teaching

1. Together read Love and Grace and Growing in Love on pages 56 and 57. Review with your child the meanings of the words **conversion** and **virtues**.
2. Complete the activity on page 57 by working with your child to create a list of virtues on a separate piece of paper. (Examples include: patience; kindness; love; honesty; respect; peace; caring; courtesy; gentleness; joy; thankfulness; and forgiveness.)
3. With your child choose two virtues and discuss ways to live those virtues at home, at work, and at school.
4. Summarize by reading aloud This We Believe.
5. Turn to page 80 in *A Little Catechism*. Review what we do during the Sign of Peace at Mass. Explain that this ritual is one way we share God's love, forgiveness, and peace with others at church before receiving Jesus in the Eucharist.

Completing the Activity

1. Help your child complete the Reconciliation Tree activity. Possible answers might include love, forgiveness, peace, friendship, and happiness.
2. Using an unlined index card invite your child to follow the directions and make a Forgiveness Bookmark.
3. Read aloud Catholic Practices. Remind your child that he or she learned about mortal sin on page 25 of Chapter 3. Look back at that page. Remind your child that mortal sin is a very serious sin that turns us away from our relationship with God.
4. Reinforce the importance of forgiving others by having your child complete the [Chapter 7 activity sheet](#).

Chapter 7 • Showing Love

Celebrating

1. Help your child make a paper heart and write on it a prayer thanking God for loving and forgiving him or her.
2. Pray together the A New Heart litany on page 59, and conclude by inviting your child to read his or her original prayer aloud.
3. Conclude by listening to *We Are the Body of Christ/Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo* from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD. The lyrics are found on page 94.

Sharing the Home and Family Page

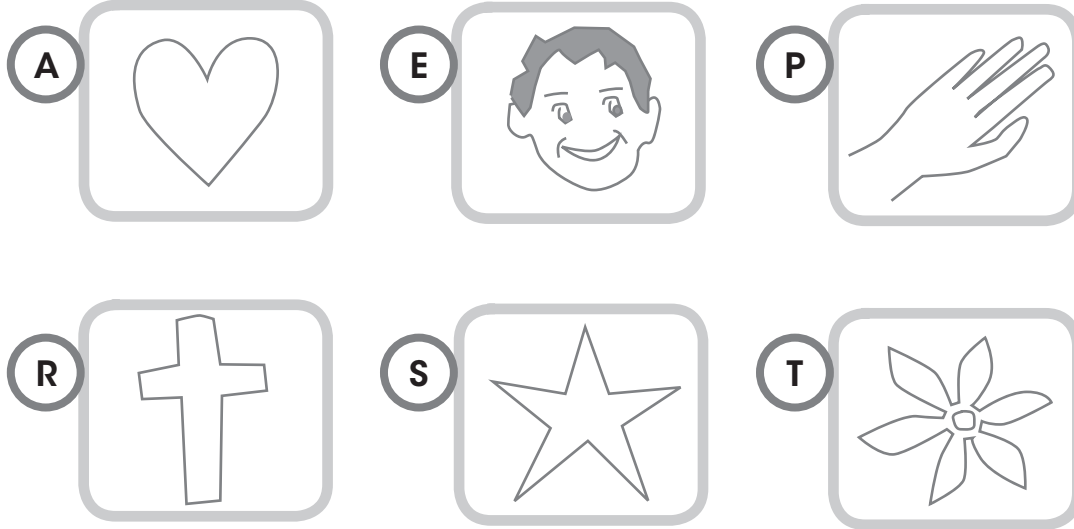
Read, discuss, and complete page 60.

Name _____ Date _____

The Secret of Reconciliation

Solve the puzzle! Use the code box to find the letter that each sign stands for. Then put the right letters in the blanks to finish the words from the Lord's Prayer.

Code Box



Copyright © RCL Publishing LLC

Forgive us our



as we forgive those who



against us.

Living Reconciliation

8

Introduction

Chapter 8 is designed to be shared with your child after he or she has celebrated the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation for the first time. The purpose of this chapter is to help the child reflect on his or her experience of celebrating the Sacrament. This will be done by recalling and reflecting upon the different parts of the Rite. This process of reflection is called **mystagogy**.

As you share this session, encourage your child to talk about what he or she felt as he or she celebrated the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Share with your child your own feelings about helping him or her prepare for the Sacrament, and what you felt or experienced on the day of your child's celebration.

In the months and years ahead, take advantage as a family of the opportunities for the celebration of Penance and Reconciliation held at your parish. Help your child continue to appreciate that we can always seek God's love and forgiveness in this Sacrament of love and healing.

Chapter Goals

After completing this lesson your child will be able to:

- Identify the main parts of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation
- Explain what happens in each part of the Rite of Penance
- Recognize that through Penance and Reconciliation we experience a new beginning and grow closer to Jesus



Materials Needed

- Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* student book, primary level
- Drawing paper
- Writing paper
- Markers or crayons
- Pencil
- A Bible

Additional Resources (Optional)

- Go Make a Difference (from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD)
- Instrumental music for the guided meditation

Chapter 8 • God's Love

Beginning the Lesson

1. Pray together the Scripture verse from Luke on page 61.
2. Read Forgiveness to help your child understand the purposes of this session.
3. Invite your child to complete the sentences on page 61. Page through the book together to recall the Bible stories of forgiveness you've read.

Recall the Experience of Celebrating Penance and Reconciliation

1. Read together We Remember and Word of God on page 62. Remind your child that the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is a community celebration involving family and the parish.
2. Pages 63 through 65 are designed to be used as a guided meditation for you and your child to share together. If possible, play instrumental music during the experience. Have both drawing and writing paper on hand for your child to use to respond creatively to the reflection questions.
3. Move slowly through each element of the Rite. Pause after reading the questions in each section to allow your child time to think and respond to them.

Understanding Our Mission

1. Read with your child A New Beginning on page 66.
2. As you discuss the questions on the page, help your child realize that through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation we are all called to carry on Jesus' healing mission in the world.
3. Ask your child to share at least one way he or she will live differently because of receiving Jesus' forgiveness. (Examples could include being a kinder person, forgiving others, trying to be a peacemaker, etc.)

Chapter 8 • God's Love

Celebrating

1. Pray together Doing the Work of Jesus on page 67.
2. Use the Bible to proclaim the reading from 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.
3. Invite your child to respond to the Reflection questions. Affirm your child's ideas for being an ambassador for Christ.
4. Read together the prayer at the bottom of page 67.
5. Sing or listen to I Say "Yes," Lord/Digo "Sí," Señor from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD. The lyrics may be found on page 93 of the student book.
6. Conclude by signing your child's forehead with the sign of the cross, and by encouraging them to carry on Jesus' healing work at home, in the neighborhood, and at school.

Sharing the Home and Family Page

Read, discuss, and complete page 68.

Credits

Cover Photo: © RCL Publishing LLC/Joy Schutt; background: © Thinkstock.