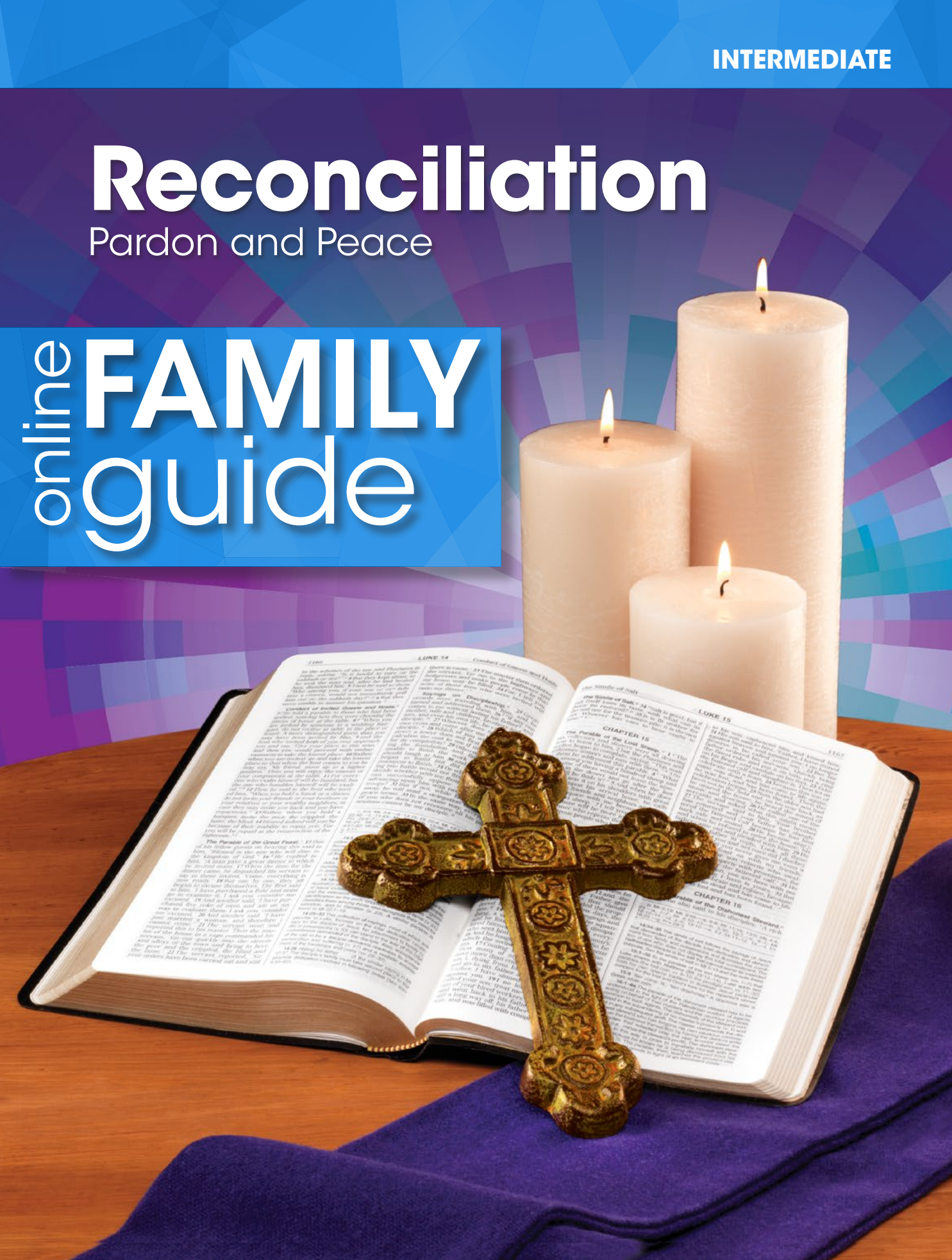


# Reconciliation

Pardon and Peace

online **FAMILY** guide



**INTERMEDIATE**

# 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



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

# 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, intermediate level
- Pencil or pen
- 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)





# 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, All Present!, 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. Summarize by repeating together the Word of God Scripture verse.

## Exploring Catholic Teaching

1. Read aloud God Saves on page 8.
2. Discuss reasons people turn away from God.
3. Point out that Adam and Eve made a choice to turn away from God.
4. Emphasize that through his life, Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus overcame the power of sin and death.
5. Help your child learn about the connection between Baptism and Penance and Reconciliation by reading page 9 and completing the activity.
6. Turn to page 74 in the *A Little Catechism* section of the book. Review together the description of Baptism.
7. Conclude by reading together the This We Believe statement on page 9.

## Completing the Activity

1. Explain the story writing 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.)

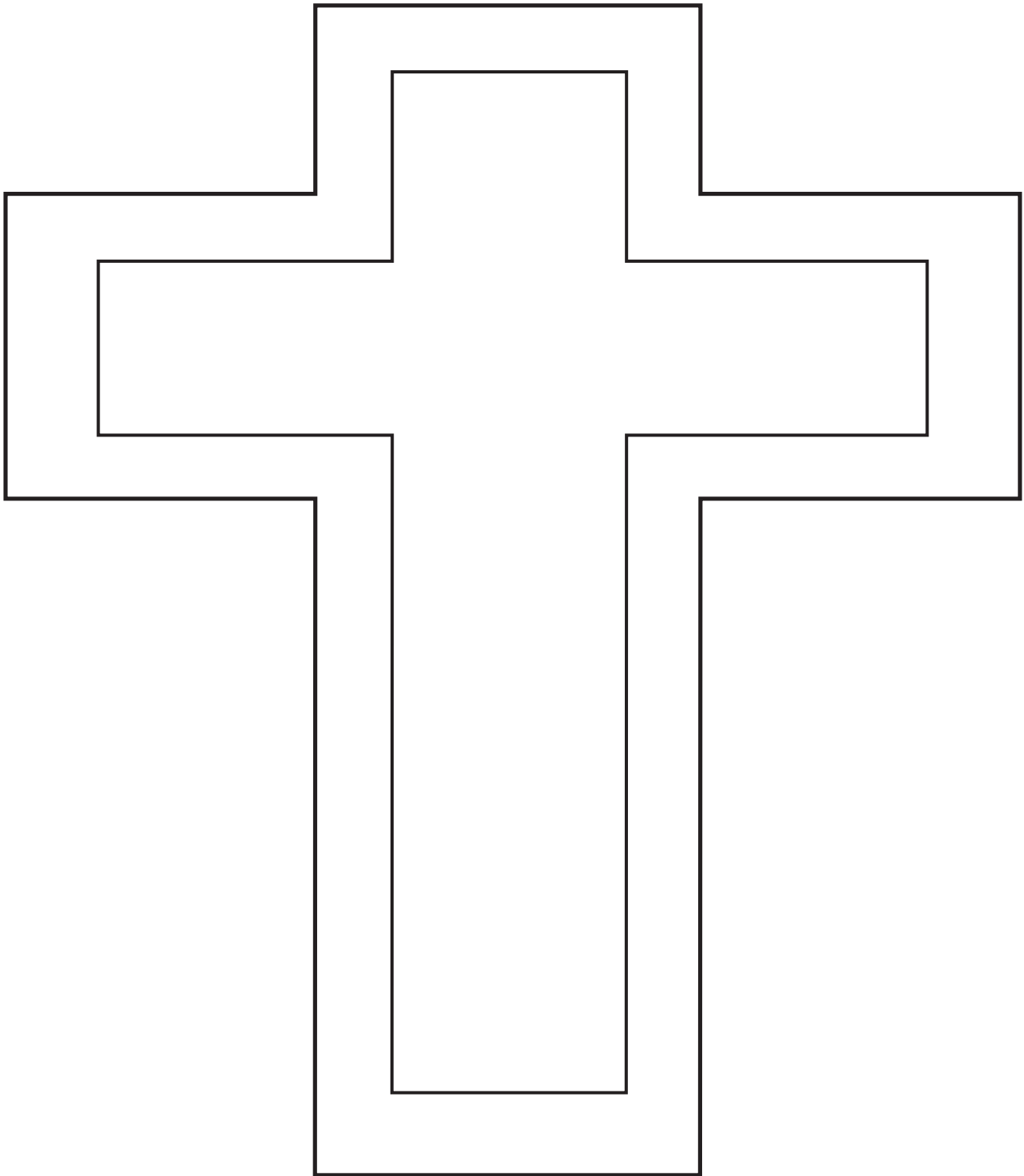
## Sharing the Home and Family Page

1. Read, discuss, and complete page 12.
2. Review with your child the [Chapter 1 activity sheet](#), and give your child time to complete it.
3. Encourage your child to remember to find ways to show love for God every day.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## A Sign of Love

On the cross, write one way God shows love for you and one way you show love for God. Decorate the border, and display this page at home as a reminder of God's love.



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# 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, intermediate level
- Pencil or pen
- A Bible
- A candle and matches
- Chapter 2 activity sheet

### Additional Resources (Optional)

- Christ Be Our Light (from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD)



# 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 discuss the questions. 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 What Must I do and the Scripture stories from Luke and Matthew on pages 14 and 15.
2. Discuss the Let's Talk questions.
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 Promises 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 17 and read together Law of Love. Review the concept of covenant by reading This We Believe.
4. Use the Bible and work with your child to complete the activity at the bottom of page 17.
5. Discuss ways we can follow the example of the Good Samaritan in our daily lives.

## 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 road sign activity on page 18.
3. Read aloud the Catholic Practices box on page 16. 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**

1. Read, discuss, and complete page 20.
2. Review with your child the [Chapter 2 activity sheet](#) and give your child time to complete it.
3. Encourage your child to make a special effort to honor God's Laws and the Law of Love in the coming week.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Ten Ways to Say "I Love You"

Review the Ten Commandments on page 85.

Write one positive thing you will do to follow each of the Commandments.

### Ten Commandments

Commandment

Action

One

Two

Three

Four

Five

Six

Seven

Eight

Nine

Ten

# 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 moral, venial, and social 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, intermediate level
- Pencil or pen
- A copy of a recent parish bulletin
- A Bible
- Chapter 3 activity sheet

### Additional Resources (Optional)

- Change Our Hearts (from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music 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 the poem.

## Sharing the Scripture Story

1. Introduce the Scripture story by reading aloud the first 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. Point out that "Son of Man" is another title, or name, for Jesus. Share together any other titles or names of Jesus that come to mind.
3. Explain that Christ teaches us that when we fail to love our neighbor, we fail to love God.
4. Read together The Least Ones on page 23. Discuss with your child practical ways that your family can help others. Involve family members in the skit activity. Look through the parish bulletin to see examples of how your parish serves others, and to see opportunities for your family to share in the ministry of serving others.

## Exploring Catholic Teaching

1. Read aloud the first paragraph on page 24. Discuss whether the young people in the picture are saying yes or no to God's love, and give reasons for your opinions.
2. Turn to *A Little Catechism* on page 71. Review statement 17 about free will.
3. Return to page 24 and read aloud the remainder of Sin and Forgiveness.
4. Return to page 86 of *A Little Catechism* and review questions 1 and 2.
5. Together read Celebrating Forgiveness on page 25. Emphasize that penance and reconciliation are both aspects of forgiveness.
6. Discuss the Let's Talk questions and have your child read aloud This We Believe.
7. 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 Catholic Practices box. Remind your child of some of the Lenten activities and prayers that are held at your parish during the liturgical season of Lent. Share how participating in these activities and prayers is a sign of our willingness to turn away from sin.



## Chapter 3 • Refusing to Love

### **Celebrating**

1. Pray What Does God Do? on page 27 of the student book. Take turns reading aloud the parts marked Reader.
2. Discuss the questions in the final paragraph.
3. Ask your child to proclaim the Scripture reading from the Gospel of Luke.
4. 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.)
5. Exchange a sign of Christ's peace.

### **Sharing the Home and Family Page**

Read, discuss, and complete page 28.

## No Puzzle

Use the numbered clues to complete the word puzzle. The letters in the word RECONCILIATION will give you a head start. And remember, doing what God wants is no puzzle!

1. \_\_\_ R \_\_\_

2. \_\_\_ E \_\_\_

3. \_\_\_ C \_\_\_

4. \_\_\_ O \_\_\_

5. \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

6. \_\_\_ C \_\_\_

7. \_\_\_ I \_\_\_

8. L \_\_\_

9. \_\_\_ I \_\_\_

10. \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

11. \_\_\_ T \_\_\_

12. \_\_\_ I \_\_\_

13. \_\_\_ O \_\_\_

14. N \_\_\_

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1. Serious sin is called \_\_\_\_\_ sin.
2. Jesus wants us to say \_\_\_\_\_ to love.
3. God's loving forgiveness is called \_\_\_\_\_.
4. When whole groups make sinful choices, it is called \_\_\_\_\_ sin.
5. Less serious sin is called \_\_\_\_\_ sin.
6. God's own life in you is called \_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ is turning away from God's love.
8. In Jesus' story, people are judged by how well they show \_\_\_\_\_.
9. God gives people free \_\_\_\_\_, the ability to make choices.
10. A word that means "making up for wrongdoing."
11. The Sacrament that washes away Original Sin.
12. Jesus will judge people on how well they have shown love to other people in \_\_\_\_\_.
13. God will always \_\_\_\_\_ sin if we are sorry and promise to do better.
14. Sin is saying \_\_\_\_\_ to God's love.

# 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, intermediate level
- Pencil or pen
- Chapter 4 activity sheet

### Additional Resources (Optional)

- Children of God (from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD)
- 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 choices Danielle can make and the consequences of each choice.

## Sharing the Scripture Story

1. Together read On Solid Rock on page 30.
2. Discuss the What is the Message? choices 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.
4. Use the Let's Talk questions to review the importance of making wise choices.

## Exploring Catholic Teaching

1. Read pages 32 and 33 aloud and do the activity at the bottom of page 33.
2. Invite your child to complete the [Chapter 4 activity sheet](#).
3. Read aloud the This We Believe and Catholic Practices statements.
4. Turn to page 71 in *A Little Catechism* and read together statement 18. Reinforce the importance of making good moral decisions.
5. Explain that the Ten Commandments, the teachings of Jesus, and God's Word all help us know right from wrong.
6. Turn to An Examination of Conscience on page 87 of the student book, and share with your child some silent time to prayerfully reflect on the questions.

## Completing the Activity

1. Invite your child to do the On Rock or Sand? activity on page 34.
2. Discuss the choices your child made. If they 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 Conscience activity.

# Chapter 4 • Loving Choices

## **Celebrating**

1. Pray together the litany, *We Come Before Our Father*, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## So Many Choices

Fill out the chart by thinking of three different moral choices you might face. Apply the steps for each choice.

STEPS	CHOICE #1	CHOICE #2	CHOICE #3
What is the moral choice I have to make?			
What would be the right or loving choice?			
What would be the wrong choice?			
What would the consequences of my choice be?			
What teachings can my conscience turn to for guidance?			

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# 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 memorizing the Act of Contrition

### Materials Needed

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

### Additional Resources (Optional)

- Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful (from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD)



# 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. Read aloud the poem, *The End?*, and discuss the question.
4. Invite your child to write a poem.

## 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 action 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.

## Exploring Catholic Teaching

1. Read *Being Sorry* on page 40. Use the *Let's Talk* questions to discuss the story.
2. Review the steps to reconciliation listed on page 41.
3. Together read the *This We Believe* statement in order to better understand contrition.
4. Turn to *A Little Catechism* on page 84. Use this page to help your child understand how we celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

## Completing the Activity

1. Explain the activity on page 42 and have your child complete it.
2. Discuss with your child his or her suggested solutions for making up for sinful choices.
3. Direct your child's attention to the Catholic Practices box. Remind your child of when and why the Church celebrates Lent. Recall with your child some ways your parish celebrates the season of Lent. (For example: CRS Rice Bowl collection; soup suppers; special collections of food and clothing for the poor; communal celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation; or Stations of the Cross.)
4. Allow time for your child to write an original story of forgiveness at the bottom of the page or on a separate sheet of paper. Discuss with your child that all people are in need of forgiveness.
5. Invite your child to 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 also located in this section.
3. Sing or listen to Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful from the 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.

## Steps to Forgiveness

Match the steps in asking forgiveness from a friend to the steps you follow when asking God's forgiveness. Display this page at home as a reminder.

### Asking a Friend's Forgiveness

- \_\_\_ 1. Admit that you have done wrong.
- \_\_\_ 2. Say you are sorry.
- \_\_\_ 3. Ask forgiveness.
- \_\_\_ 4. Promise to be a better friend.
- \_\_\_ 5. Do what you can to make up for the hurt you have caused.

### Asking God's Forgiveness

- a. Promise to do better.
- b. Do the penance the priest gives you.
- c. Confess your sins to the priest.
- d. Feel contrition for sin.
- e. Pray a prayer of contrition.

# 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 Reconciliation
- 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, intermediate level
- Markers or crayons
- Paper
- Index card
- Pencil or pen
- Chapter 6 activity sheet

### Additional Resources (Optional)

- Give Us Your Peace (from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD)

# Chapter 6 • Celebrating God's Love

## Beginning the Lesson

1. Pray with your child the verse from Psalm 32 on page 45.
2. Read Pictures of Change. Discuss with your child experiences of having disagreements or misunderstandings with friends or loved ones, and the feelings these situations caused.
3. Explain the directions to Draw Reconciliation and have your child complete the two pictures.

## Sharing the Scripture Story

1. Read the story Saved! on pages 46 and 47 and discuss the Let's Talk questions.
2. Explain that Jesus invites us to change our lives. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is one way the Church helps us to do so.
3. Invite your child to name things he or she can do to become closer friends of Jesus. Ask your child to think about ways he or she needs to change in order to do so.

## Exploring Catholic Teaching

1. Read about and discuss each step of the Rite of Reconciliation, outlined on pages 48 and 49.
2. Help your child understand the meanings of the words **penitent** and **absolution**.
3. Invite your child to restate the This We Believe statements in his or her own words.
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. Pray together We Celebrate on page 49.

## Completing the Activity

1. Invite your child to use the space on the page or an index card for listing the steps of celebrating the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Put the page or the 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 and invite your child to complete the Make Connections activity.



## Chapter 6 • Celebrating God's Love

### **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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 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, intermediate level
- Bible
- Unlined index card
- Markers and crayons
- Sheet of paper
- Pencil or pen

### 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)

# 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. Use the Bible to complete A Story of Forgiveness on page 58. Allow time for your child to create and share an original story showing love after being forgiven.
2. Use 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 24 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. Use the [Chapter 7 activity sheet](#) to review with your child vocabulary words related to the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

# Chapter 7 • Showing Love

## **Celebrating**

1. Invite your child to write a prayer thanking God for loving and forgiving them.
2. Pray together the A New Heart litany on page 59.
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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Search for Forgiveness

Find and circle the words from the box. (They appear in the puzzle horizontally, vertically, and diagonally.) Then read the remaining letters horizontally to find Jesus' prayer about forgiveness.

ABSOLUTION	LOVE	RECONCILIATION	CONFESS	
PENANCE	SACRAMENT	CONVERSION	PRECEPTS	
SIN	GRACE	PRIEST	VENIAL	VIRTUE

F	O	P	R	E	C	E	P	T	S	R	V	G	I
S	A	C	R	A	M	E	N	T	V	E	I	U	S
O	U	R	V	E	N	I	A	L	T	R	R	E	S
P	C	O	N	F	E	S	S	A	X	S	T	E	S
A	O	S	W	E	F	O	I	R	G	I	U	V	E
T	N	H	L	O	V	E	O	N	G	S	E	E	W
H	V	O	T	R	E	S	P	A	R	S	S	A	G
R	E	C	O	N	C	I	L	I	A	T	I	O	N
A	R	I	N	S	T	U	T	S	C	A	N	D	L
E	S	A	D	U	S	S	N	O	E	T	I	N	T
O	I	T	E	M	E	P	T	A	T	I	O	N	B
U	O	T	D	I	E	L	P	E	N	A	N	C	E
I	N	V	R	E	R	U	S	F	R	O	M	E	V
I	L	P	Z	A	B	S	O	L	U	T	I	O	N

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# 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 Reconciliation
- Recognize that through Penance and Reconciliation we experience a new beginning and grow closer to Jesus



### Materials Needed

- Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* student book, intermediate level
- Drawing paper
- Writing paper
- Markers or crayons
- Pencil or pen

### Additional Resources (Optional)

- I Say "Yes," Lord/Digo "Sí," Señor (from the *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* music CD)
- Instrumental music for the guided meditation

# Chapter 8 • Living Reconciliation

## **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 on page 62. Remind your child that the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is a community celebration involving family and the parish.
2. Pages 62 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 • Living Reconciliation

### **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**

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