

Finding God – Second Grade, Session 12: Celebrating Reconciliation

Learning Objectives

- Tell the story of Jesus healing the man who was paralyzed.
- Explain that mortal sin is a very serious wrong and that venial sin is less serious, although still a sin.
- Identify the Sacrament of Reconciliation as the way we experience God's forgiveness when we confess our sins.
- Define *confession*, *contrition*, *examination of conscience*, *mortal sin*, and *venial sin*.

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- Open Your Heart – invite children to quiet themselves and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- Proclaim God's Word – Read from the Bible Mark 2:1-12.
- The Word Alive – Ask: **What do we mean by the phrase "a broken heart?"** (feeling sad; hurt). Say: **While our physical heart is not damaged, we still need to be healed. Jesus heals our bodies and our souls.** Read aloud the paragraphs on page 97. Ask: **How might Jesus heal our souls?** (by forgiving our sins).

Prayer

Say: **Jesus helps us recognize our sins and ask for forgiveness. He also helps us forgive others when they have hurt us.** Pray aloud the prayer on page 97 and close by saying **Amen**.

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- Begin – Share a childhood story about a time you disobeyed or disappointed someone you loved. Highlight the consequences of your actions and how you made peace with that person. Say: **When we turn away from God, we can become close again through apologies, forgiveness, and reconciliation.**
- Connect – Say: **As much as we do not want to sin, none of us is perfect. Sometimes we sin, but God in his mercy always calls us back to himself. He loves us so much that we can ask him to forgive us, and he always will.**

Guide your child to look up *mortal sin*, *venial sin*, and *contrition* in the Glossary.

Read and discuss the definitions. Then read aloud the title and the first paragraph.

Say: **When we commit a mortal sin, we turn away from God. It breaks our relationship with him. Although a venial sin is less serious, it is still a sin and hurts our relationship with God and others.**

Read aloud the second paragraph.

Say: **God gives us the wonderful opportunity to be forgiven through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

Link to Liturgy: Read aloud the feature. Explain that when we gather for Mass, we admit to God and one another that we do not always do what we should.

Say: **Together we praise God for being merciful and ask for God's forgiveness.**

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- Guide your child to look up the terms *examination of conscience* and *confession* in the Glossary.
- Read and discuss the definitions.
- Then read aloud the paragraph, and have your child turn to pages 270-271 of the Prayers and Practices section to learn more about examination of conscience. Read aloud and discuss the page. Explain that these types of questions help us think about what we will confess to Jesus.

Ready for the Sacraments: Read aloud the feature. Explain that penance is a prayer or deed we do to help us change and live as God wants us to live. Tell your child they will learn more about penance in the next session.

Page 100

- Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions on page 100.
- Say: **Zacchaeus grew closer to God with Jesus' help.**
- Read aloud the first paragraph of Zacchaeus, the Rich Man. Say: **Zacchaeus collected money for the government. Sometimes he took more money than he should. He grew rich dishonestly.**
- Read aloud the rest of the story. Ask: **What did Zacchaeus decide to do after meeting Jesus?** (give half of everything he had to the poor and return money to those he had cheated). **What did Jesus tell Zacchaeus?** (that he was saved that day)

Reading God's Word: Read aloud the feature. Say: **Our real treasure is one day being with God in heaven.**

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- Pray the Act of Contrition with your child, looking at their books.
- Invite your child to take a few moments to talk to Jesus in their hearts.
- Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross. Say: **Remember the great love God has for us as we practice Jesus' teachings.**