

Reconciliation and Holy Communion Preparation



Session 3



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Reconciliation

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

CONFESSION
PRIEST
SORRY
PENANCE
JESUS
FORGIVENESS
RECONCILIATION
LOVE
SINS
PRAYER
CONSCIENCE
STOSWALD
STSEBASTIAN
MERCY

Task:
Spend a few minutes completing the wordsearch all about reconciliation.

Recap: What are sacraments?



The sacraments help us to be close to Jesus. He tells us that he is with us to make us strong in loving other people.

In the sacraments we use **prayers and symbols**, things we can see and hear, to show us what God is doing in our hearts that we cannot see.

In the sacraments, Jesus tells us ***“I am with you always”***.

Can you name all of the sacraments?





Story of the Loving Father

**This is a story that Jesus told us.
It's about God's forgiveness for us when we go wrong.**

There was a very rich man who had two sons.

One day the younger son, Jack, went to his Dad and said, "Dad, when you die I'm going to get a lot of money.

His Dad was a bit upset about this but Jack carried on anyway and said, "Well I want the money now while I'm still young so that I can enjoy myself. You might live for a long time and I might only get my money when I'm too old to have any fun. Can I have my money now please?"

His Dad thought for a long time about what his son had asked him. He wasn't sure what to do at all. But in the end he decided that he had to say yes. So he sold half his land and half his cows and sheep and got all the money together and gave it to his son.

Jack was very happy. He packed up his things and quickly set out for the big city to spend the money he had been given.





Story of the Loving Father

Now Jack had a great time in the city. He quickly made lots of friends because he could take them all out and buy them what they wanted.

He lived in a nice house and had all the new clothes he could ever need.

But one day he went to the big bag of money that his Dad had given him and there was nothing left. He had spent every last penny. When his friends came round Jack couldn't take them out anywhere so they got bored and one by one they went away. In a few days Jack had sold all his new clothes and had to move out of his nice house. He started to feel hungry.

He had to find a job but the only work he could find was feeding pigs. He was so hungry that he would even have eaten the pigs' food, but no one offered him even that.





Story of the Loving Father

Jack started to think. He remembered how happy he used to be at his Dad's house. He had lots to eat and he had his family and his real friends who loved him very much. He decided that he would go home and ask for a job on his Dad's farm. He thought that if he said sorry he would have enough to eat again and a warm place to sleep at night.

So off he went on the long journey home, tired and hungry. After many days he finally reached the road that led to his home.

At that moment his Dad looked out down the hill and along the road. In the distance he could see a poor traveller in old, torn clothes, limping because his feet were very sore.





Story of the Loving Father

Suddenly the Father was filled with love and happiness and he shouted out, "It's my son. It's my son. He's come home!" Dad ran down the road and threw his arms around his boy with tears of happiness in his eyes.

Jack was so surprised to see how much his Dad loved him. His Dad didn't tell him off or shout at all. Jack suddenly saw for the first time how unkind he had been. He had wasted everything.

From the bottom of his heart Jack said, "I'm so sorry Dad. I've been really mean to you. I don't deserve to be called your son at all."

Dad just hugged him even tighter. He took Jack by the hand and they ran towards the house. Dad shouted to the servants, "Bring out the best food. Call the musicians. Bring out new clothes and gold ring for my son. We are going to celebrate and have a party because my son was lost but he has come home. I thought he had gone for ever but now I have him back again."





What does this story tell us?

What does the father do for his son?

What does God do for us?

Task: On page 2 in your booklets, put the story in the correct order by numbering each sentence (1-8).



Reconciliation



Baptism



In reconciliation we are asking God to wash us clean again in our hearts. It is a new beginning.

We are saying sorry and becoming friends again.

Reconciliation



How do we do this at home?

How do we ask for forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation?



Remember the task from last session when we thought about right and wrong things we sometimes do?

- help put the shopping away
- be cheeky to people at home
use bad words
- trying my best even when something isn't easy
- be a friend to someone who is lonely or sad
- trying to be honest with other people
- laughing at someone who is unhappy
- talking to Jesus and saying 'thank you' to him everyday
- being selfish
- sulking when I don't get my own way



When we go the 'confession' or reconciliation we tell the priest what we want to say sorry for. He will ask us to say the prayer of sorrow and he will say a prayer to give us forgiveness.

PRACTICE

What is a penance?



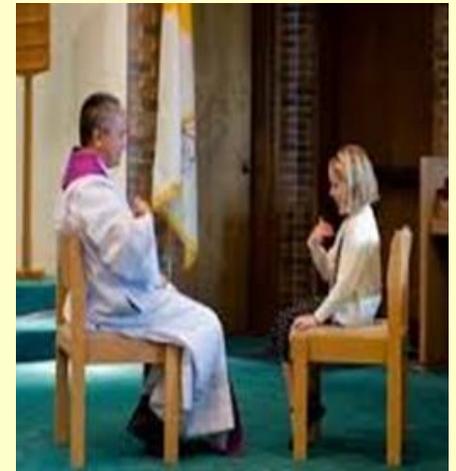
- What is a penance?

Something we do that shows we are grateful for God's love and forgiveness.

The priest might ask us to say a prayer or do something else.

- We can pray in lots of different ways but one easy way is to use some written prayers that we may know, or can learn.

What prayers do we know?





Preparing for my First Reconciliation

Jesus, I thank you for everything you
have given me.

All the good things in my life come from
you.

Help me to know how you want me to
change

to show you that I am grateful
for all the ways in which you show me
your love.

TASK to take away:

Use the prayer and the
questions on the last
page in your booklets to
help get ready for
making your first
reconciliation. Ask a
grown up to help you
with this.



Prayer of Sorrow

O my God
because you are so good
I am very sorry
that I have sinned against you
and by the help of your grace
I will not sin again. Amen.