

**CALL to  
CELEBRATE**  
RECONCILIATION

**FACILITATOR'S  
GUIDE**

Chapter 1

**Materials Needed to Complete Session**

Chapter One *Call to Celebrate Reconciliation*  
Parent Handout

Two pieces of card stock (one for child, one  
for parent)

Crayons and Pencils

*We Are Called* activity sheet (one per child)

For the opening ritual:

- Bible
- Small table covered with a table cloth
- Candle and a large glass bowl filled  
with water
- Music CD for gathering prayer
- Select a child and parent to carry the  
Bible in procession

**Time Frame (60 minutes)**

Welcome and Call to Prayer  
10 mins.

Conversation One  
5 mins.

Conversation Two  
10 mins.

Conversation Three  
13 mins.

Conversation Four  
12 mins.

Closing  
5 mins.

**HOSPITALITY**

Warmly welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to find a seat together at a table. Ask them not to do anything with the handouts on the table until you are ready to begin the gathering prayer.

**WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER**

**10 mins.**

Welcome parents/guardians and children. Thank them for being there and say that you hope they will enjoy some special time together with each other and with God. Invite them around the prayer table and begin the gathering prayer found on pages 2 and 3 of the student text.

**Conversation One**

**5 mins.**

1. Direct participants back to their seats.
2. Ask them to open their book to pages 2 and 3 and to place the parent handout beside it. Explain that the handout is self-directed and that you would like them to **complete steps 1 and 2.**

# FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Chapter 1

## *Conversation Two*

**10 mins.**

1. Invite participants to turn their book to page 5 and their handout to page 2.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 3-5**. Make sure each table has the cardstock they need for step 5.

## *Conversation Three*

**13 mins.**

1. Tell participants to turn in their book to pages 6 and 7 and in their handout to page 3.
2. Invite them to **complete steps 6-9**.

## *Conversation Four*

**12 mins.**

1. Tell participants that it is now time to turn to the final conversation for this gathering found on pages 8 and 9 of their book and page 4 of their handout.
2. Invite them to **complete steps 10 and 11**.

## *Closing*

**5 mins.**

1. Guide the parents to the **For Home** page (page 5 in handout) and ask them to finish the rest of the lesson at home this week. Thank everyone for their participation and that you look forward to seeing them on \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Conclude with the Closing Blessing from *Call to Celebrate Reconciliation* found on page 10.

**CALL to  
CELEBRATE**  
RECONCILIATION

**PARENT  
HANDOUT**

Chapter 1  
Begins on page 2

***Conversation One***

In the opening prayer on pages 2 and 3, we celebrate being called by name. In our spiritual lives, the practice of naming is traditionally associated with Baptism. In Baptism, we receive the name Christian that marks our identity with the community and then our own first name, as each of us is called by God. Baptism is about being called by name by God and the community. Who you are in Christ and the lifetime journey of growing into his image and likeness are what we celebrate in Baptism.

1. Invite children to share their favorite part of the opening prayer on pages 2 and 3. Share what part you liked best. Make sure you each explain why you liked the part you chose.

What did the prayer tell you about God? (*Possible responses: we are called to walk with God; God gives us life; God loves us so much and knows our names.*)

2. Tell your child that the opening prayer reminded us that God calls us by name to live in love with him and with each other. Share with children why you gave them the name they were given at Baptism (first and middle). Share with children the story of your name if you know it.

# PARENT HANDOUT

Chapter 1

## **Conversation Two**

3. Turn to page 5 in your book and read it together, taking turns reading with your child if possible. Begin with *God's Children*, then read *Words of Faith*.
4. Share why you chose to have your child baptized and share some memories of that day. (*What was the name of the church where you were baptized? What was your child wearing? Who bought the clothes? What color was the outfit? Who were his/her godparents? Why did you choose those people?*)
5. Names are important to us. They are a big part of who we are. We like to see our name spelled right, we like to hear it pronounced correctly. Work alongside your child to create name cards for each of you:
  - Take a piece of card stock from the table and fold it in half, length wise.
  - Write your name on one side of the card stock in large letters.
  - Decorate the back side of the card stock (so when you place it on the table your name is on the front and it is decorated on the back) with words and drawings that will tell others something about you.

**PARENT  
HANDOUT**

Chapter 1

**Conversation Three**

6. Ask your child, How do the people around you show that they love you? (*Possible responses: they take care of me, they hug me.*)
7. Tell your child that God loves us more than anyone on earth. Now read together *God Loves Us*.

Before you read *God Gives Everyone Life* on pages 6 and 7, remind children that the word Scripture is another name for God's word. When we read from the Bible, we believe that God is sharing his life with us. The Holy Spirit helps us understand who God is and who we are as children of God. Before you begin to read from Scripture ask children to close their eyes and quietly ask the Holy Spirit to be with you as you read.

Read the passage from Scripture.

Ask your child to describe the story back to you.

8. Now, spend some time talking about the questions on page 7:

What does Paul teach us about God? (*Possible responses: God loves us because we are his children. God loves us so much he created this beautiful world for us to live. He sent Jesus to show us how to better love each other.*)

How do you answer God's call to love him? (*Possible responses: follow Jesus; serve others; love others as God loves me.*)

How have you and your family come to know God? (*Possible responses: through other people, attending Mass, prayer.*)

9. Look at the *Share* box on page 7 and work with your child to write a statement about how God shows his love.

# PARENT HANDOUT

Chapter 1

## **Conversation Four**

**10.** Turn to page 8 and read the *Faith Focus* together.

Recall for children a time when they disobeyed you. Remind them of the consequences that came from that action. (*For example: Ran through the living room after you said not to; knocked over a lamp and broke it; was not allowed to go on the computer for a week*). Explain to your child that God always lets us experience the consequences of our choices, just like the first people.

Still, God thought of a way to save us from our bad choices. He sent us Jesus. The sacraments are Jesus' gift to us to help us know he is with us always.

Now read page 9 together.

**11.** Take out the *We Are Called* activity sheet and work with your child to complete it.

COACHING PLAN

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HANDOUT**

Chapter 1

***For Home***

1. Find your Bible and read together Isaiah 43:1-4.
2. Turn to page 11 and read the *Share Together* section in the Act box.
3. Pray together the *Family Prayer* on page 11. Close the prayer by signing each other's forehead with the sign of the cross.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## We Are Called

Finish writing the descriptions of the Sacraments of Initiation. Then draw a line from the picture to the sacrament that it represents. Color the pictures.



We receive new life  
in \_\_\_\_\_.



The Holy Spirit gives us more  
strength in \_\_\_\_\_.



We receive the Body and Blood  
of Jesus in the \_\_\_\_\_.



**CALL to  
CELEBRATE**  
RECONCILIATION

**FACILITATOR'S  
GUIDE**

Chapter 2

**Materials Needed to Complete Session**

Chapter Two *Call to Celebrate Reconciliation*  
Parent Handout

*We Are Welcomed* activity sheet (one per  
child)

Scissors

Crayons and Pencils

For the opening ritual:

- Bible
- Table covered with white cloth (prayer table)
- Candle and a large glass bowl filled with water
- Music CD for gathering prayer
- Select a child and parent to carry the Bible in procession

**Time Frame (60 minutes)**

Welcome and Call to Prayer  
10 mins.

Conversation One  
15 mins.

Conversation Two  
15 mins.

Conversation Three  
15 mins.

Closing  
5 mins.

**HOSPITALITY**

Warmly welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to find a seat together at a table. Ask them not to do anything with the handouts on the table until you are ready to begin the gathering prayer.

**WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER**

**10 mins.**

Welcome parents/guardians and children. Thank them for being there and say that you hope they will enjoy some special time together with each other and with God. Invite them around the prayer table and begin the gathering prayer found on pages 12 and 13 of the student text.

**Conversation One**

**15 mins.**

1. Direct participants back to their seats.
2. Ask them to open their book to page 14 and 15 and to place the parent handout beside it. Explain that the handout is self-directed and that you would like them to **complete steps 1-5.**

## FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Chapter 2

### *Conversation Two*

**15 mins.**

1. Invite participants to turn in their book to pages 16 and 17 and their handout to page 2.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 6 and 7**. Make sure each child has the *We Are Welcomed* handout.

### *Conversation Three*

**15 mins.**

1. Tell participants to turn to pages 18 and 19 in their book and page 3 in their handout.
2. Invite them to **complete steps 8 and 9**.

### *Closing*

**5 mins.**

1. Guide the parents to the **For Home** page (page 4 in handout) and ask them to finish the rest of the lesson at home this week. Thank everyone for their participation and that you look forward to seeing them on \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Conclude with the Closing Blessing found on page 20.

**COACHING PLAN**

**CALL to  
CELEBRATE**  
RECONCILIATION

**PARENT  
HANDOUT**

Chapter 2  
Begins on page 12

**Conversation One**

From the moment of our Baptism, we begin a lifetime journey of growing in holiness, opening our hearts to becoming all that God imagined us to be. Sometimes we make unloving choices and damage our relationships. No matter what unloving choices we make, God is always ready to begin again. The Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) helps us recall God's endless love for all people. The priests who celebrate this sacrament reflect the care, acceptance, and mercy of Christ. The church hopes that all who celebrate this sacrament hear Jesus speaking to them in loving forgiveness.

1. Invite children to share their favorite part of the opening prayer on pages 12 and 13. Share what part you liked best. Make sure you each explain why you liked the part you chose.
2. Turn to page 14 and review the *Reflect* box. Help your child draw one way they can march in the light of Christ (*helping others, paying attention to what someone needs*).
3. When children have completed their picture and you have helped them to write their sentence, turn to page 15 and read it together.
4. Ask children to tell you what makes something a sin. Be sure they understand that sins are deliberate, wrong, and hurtful actions. Mistakes and accidents are not sins.
5. Share these examples with your child and discuss which are sins and which are not. Make sure you discuss why.

During a game, you try to kick a soccer ball, but kick another player's leg. (*No, it was an accident*).

You take a toy from a friend's room without asking and it gets broken. (*Yes, you took something without asking; perhaps the breaking was an accident, but it was wrong to take it.*)

You are setting the table and a glass slips out of your hand and breaks. (*No, it was an accident*)

One of your friends takes something from you and you are so angry that you punch him/her in the arm. (*Yes, you chose to punch and hurt him/her.*)

## PARENT HANDOUT

Chapter 2

### **Conversation Two**

6. Jesus welcomed everyone, whether they were sinners or not. Today you will be reading the story of Zacchaeus, a tax collector. In Jesus' time, tax collectors were known as sinners because they did undesirable work for the Romans, the people who occupied their country. Not only did they collect taxes for the enemy, but they often took extra profit for themselves.

Read the *Faith Focus* on page 16.

Before you read *Zacchaeus* on pages 16 and 17 remind your child that you are about to hear God speak to you in his word, the Bible. Stop and silently ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart as you listen to his word. Read the story and have your child tell it back to you.

Discuss the questions:

Why do you think Jesus decided to stop at Zacchaeus' house? (*Possible responses: he liked Zacchaeus; Zacchaeus had worked hard to see Jesus, Jesus felt sorry for him; Jesus wanted to show his disciple that God loves everyone.*)

How would you feel if Jesus came to your home? How would you change?

7. Take out the *We Are Welcomed* activity sheet and work with your child to create a flip book about Zacchaeus.

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Chapter 2

***Conversation Three***

8. Remind your child that an action is sinful when we know something is wrong and do it anyway. Now read together, taking turns, pages 18-19.

**Note:** Remember that a mortal sin is something that is grievously wrong, like murder. A venial sin is a less serious violation of God's law, like becoming angry at someone. Your child should understand that sin is an unloving choice done on purpose. Your child will understand the idea of more serious sin as he/she hears about it or witness it. It is important to reinforce now, that God's love can forgive anyone as long as he/she is truly sorry.

9. Turn to page 20 and help children write a letter in the Respond section. Encourage them to note any questions they might have about the Sacrament of Penance.

**PARENT  
HANDOUT**

Chapter 2

***For Home***

1. Open your Bible and read together Luke 19:1-10. Now, turn to the *Act* section on page 21 and talk about the passage using the questions provided in the *Share Together*.
2. Pray together the *Family Prayer* at the bottom of page 21.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## We Are Welcomed

You will be making a flip-up book about Zacchaeus and Jesus. Read the words on the page. In the space next to the words, draw a picture for that part of the story. Then cut out the booklet by cutting along the dotted lines. Fold the paper in half along the heavy line. Retell the story by uncovering the picture and reading.

Zacchaeus climbed  
a tree to see Jesus  
passing by.



Jesus looked up  
and told Zacchaeus  
he wanted to eat at  
his house.



Zacchaeus promised  
to help the people he  
had cheated.

### Materials Needed to Complete Session

Chapter Three *Call to Celebrate*  
*Reconciliation* Parent Handout

*We Reflect* activity sheet copied onto manila tag  
or card stock (Teacher manual CE7)

Scissors

Crayons and Pencils

Large lined index card

For the opening ritual:

- Bible
- Table covered with white cloth (prayer table)
- Candle and a large glass bowl filled with water
- Music CD for gathering prayer
- Select a child and parent to carry the Bible in procession

### Time Frame (60 minutes)

Welcome and Call to Prayer  
10 mins.

Conversation One  
5 mins.

Conversation Two  
13 mins.

Conversation Three  
12 mins.

Conversation Four  
15 mins.

Closing  
5 mins.

## HOSPITALITY

Warmly welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to find a seat together at a table. Ask them not to do anything with the handouts on the table until you are ready to begin the gathering prayer.

### WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER

**10 mins.**

Welcome parents/guardians and children. Thank them for being there and say that you hope they will enjoy some special time together with each other and with God. Invite them around the prayer table and begin the gathering prayer found on pages 22 and 23 of the student text.

#### *Conversation One*

**5 mins.**

1. Direct participants back to their seats.
2. Ask them to open their book to page 22 and 23 and to place the parent handout beside it. Explain that the handout is self-directed and that you would like them to **complete step 1.**



## FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Chapter 3

### *Conversation Two*

**13 mins.**

1. Invite participants to turn their book to page 25 and their handout to page 2.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 2-4**.

### *Conversation Three*

**12 mins.**

1. Now tell participants to turn to pages 26 and 27 in their book and page 3 in their handout.
2. Invite them to **complete steps 5 and 6**. Make sure each child has a *We Reflect* activity sheet copied on card stock.

### *Conversation Four*

**15 mins.**

1. Invite participants to turn to pages 28 and 29 in their book and page 4 in their handout.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 7 and 8**. Make sure each child has a large index card for the Examination of Conscience.

### *Closing*

**5 mins.**

1. Guide the parents to the **For Home** page (page 5 in handout) and ask them to finish the rest of this lesson at home this week. Thank everyone for their participation and say that you look forward to seeing them on \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Conclude with the closing blessing found on page 30.

**COACHING PLAN**

**PARENT  
HANDOUT**

Chapter 3  
Begins on page 22

***Conversation One***

When a person looks at something through a prism, the angle at which the prism is held determines the colors that will cover the object being viewed. When Christians review their sins and failures, they are able to view them through the prism of God's love and compassion, whose perfect sign of that love is the cross.

All the laws and teachings of the Church flow from the great command of Jesus to love God, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Because the love of God is made visible in Christ and in the love that Christians have for others, sin also becomes visible through the breaks caused in these relationships. The awareness of sin in one's life is a great opportunity for conversion. When people take the time to acknowledge their failure, God's response is always an ever more powerful grace that both forgives and calls for a change of heart. The Sacrament of Reconciliation celebrates that forgiveness and change of heart.

1. Invite children to share their favorite part of the opening prayer on pages 22 and 23. Share what part you liked best. Make sure you each explain why you liked the part you chose.

**Note:** The prayer service honored the Word of God by inviting you to bow before it. Bowing is a gesture of reverence, a way of showing that we know something or someone is holy (deeply connected to God's presence)

## PARENT HANDOUT

Chapter 3

### ***Conversation Two***

2. Read together page 25, including *Signs of Faith*.
3. Ask children to name their favorite Bible stories. Share with them your favorite Bible story and why it is your favorite.  
(Possible responses: *The Lost Sheep; The Prodigal Son; The Good Samaritan; the Christmas Story; The Easter Story*)
4. Word Game Challenge! Work with your child, in the space below, to think of as many words as you can that begin with different letters of the alphabet to describe God. For example,  
  
God is...Awesome...Beautiful...Caring...Dedicated...  
Everlasting...Fulfilling...and so on! Can you make it to the letter Z?

**COACHING PLAN**

**Conversation Three**

5. Read together page 26. Before you read, remind your child that you are about to read from Scripture, the word of God. As Catholics, we believe that God's word helps us to grow as his disciples (followers). Before you begin to read from his holy word, quietly ask the Holy Spirit to help you hear what God wants to share with you.

Ask your child to tell the story back to you.

Now, read page 27.

Discuss the questions on page 27:

What was Jesus trying to tell the man? *(Possible responses: If we love God and our neighbor we will go to heaven; if you keep these two laws you will keep all the others.)*

When does following a commandment make you happy? *(Possible responses: When I honor God by praying; when I am kind; when I share; when I obey.)*

6. Take out the *We Reflect* activity sheet. Notice that the first three commandments help us to understand how we can love God. Read through the instructions with your child, then read together the commandment on each bookmark. Work with your child to color them and cut them out.

## PARENT HANDOUT

Chapter 3

### **Conversation Four**

7. Read together pages 28 and 29. We need to examine our conscience in order to know how we do not love as God asks. It takes courage to admit that we have done something wrong. Think of a time your child has admitted to something they have done wrong. Share that memory with him/her and say how proud you are of him/her when they do so. Tell your child about a time when you did something wrong and how difficult it was to admit *(a time when you overreacted in anger, when you told a lie for convenience, or perhaps ignored a request for help)*.
8. Work with children to create an Examination of Conscience that is specific to their life. For example, Do I share with my brother? Do I help my sister without complaining? Do I do what my parents ask the first time they ask me? Do I respect my teacher? If you need more help, turn to page 75. Let children think of the questions with your prompting. *(For example, What would Jesus want you to do if your sister asked to borrow your favorite toy? How would Jesus want you to act when you are playing a game with your friend?)* Turn their statements into questions and write the questions on a large index card to take home. *(Do I cheat when I play with friends? Do I share with others?)* Make sure you have at least ten questions.

COACHING PLAN

**PARENT  
HANDOUT**

Chapter 3

***For Home***

1. Open your Bible and read together Luke 10:25-28. What do you think is the most important thing that Jesus is saying in this passage?
2. Now turn to the *Act* section on page 31 and do the *Share Together* activity.
3. Pray together the *Family Prayer* on page 31.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## We Reflect

Here are three bookmarks that will remind you about the Great Commandment to love God. Decorate them, and cut them out. Use them in books where you will see them often.

I

*You shall  
have no  
other gods  
besides  
me.*

II

*You shall  
not take  
the name  
of the  
Lord,  
your God,  
in vain.*

III

*Remember  
to keep  
holy the  
sabbath  
day.*

**CALL to  
CELEBRATE**  
RECONCILIATION

**FACILITATOR'S  
GUIDE**

Chapter 4

**Materials Needed to Complete Session**

Chapter Four *Call to Celebrate*  
*Reconciliation* Parent Handout

Crayons and Pencils

*We Are Sorry* activity sheet (one per student)

For the opening ritual:

- Bible
- Table covered with white cloth (prayer table)
- Candle and a large glass bowl filled with water
- Music CD for gathering prayer
- Select a child and parent to carry the Bible in procession

**Time Frame (60 minutes)**

Welcome and Call to Prayer  
10 mins.

Conversation One  
15 mins.

Conversation Two  
10 mins.

Conversation Three  
15 mins.

Conversation Four  
5 mins.

Closing  
5 mins.

**HOSPITALITY**

Warmly welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to find a seat together at a table. Ask them not to do anything with the handouts on the table until you are ready to begin the gathering prayer.

**WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER**

**10 mins.**

Welcome parents/guardians and children. Thank them for being there and tell them that you hope they will enjoy some special time together with each other and with God. Invite them around the prayer table and begin the gathering prayer found on pages 32 and 33 of the student text.

**Conversation One**

**15 mins.**

1. Direct participants back to their seats.
2. Ask them to open their book to page 34 and to place the parent handout beside it. Explain that the handout is self-directed and that you would like them to **complete steps 1-3.**



## FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Chapter 4

### *Conversation Two*

**10 mins.**

1. Invite participants to turn in their book to page 35 and in their handout to page 2.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 4-6**.

### *Conversation Three*

**15 mins.**

1. Now tell participants to turn to pages 36 and 37 in their books and to page 3 in their handout.
2. Invite them to **complete steps 7 and 8**. Make sure each child has a blank piece of paper, a pencil, and crayons as well as a copy of the *We Are Sorry* activity sheet.

### *Conversation Four*

**5 mins.**

1. Invite participants to turn in their book to page 38 and 39 and their handout to page 4.
2. Ask them to **complete step 9**.

### *Closing*

**5 mins.**

1. Guide the parents to the **For Home** page (page 5 in handout) and ask them to finish the rest of this lesson at home this week. Thank everyone for their participation and say that you look forward to seeing them on \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Conclude with the Closing Blessing found on page 40.

**COACHING PLAN**

**CALL to  
CELEBRATE**  
RECONCILIATION

**PARENT  
HANDOUT**

Chapter 4  
Begins on page 32

**Conversation One**

It is difficult to admit that we have done something wrong. Yet, when we can admit that we are wrong, we experience the sorrow that comes from recognizing the pain that our harmful choices have caused. Sorrow for sin, called **contrition**, is a moment of growth in the life of a Christian. Sorrow is the second step in reconciling any relationship, and clearly needed in restoring our relationship with God. The source of joy for all Christians is our conviction that God is always waiting for us to return to his embrace.

1. Invite children to share their favorite part of the opening prayer on pages 32 and 33. Share what part you liked best. Make sure you each explain why you liked the part you chose.

**Note:** Silence is an important element of worship. It provides time for quiet reflection and prayer. It allows rest. It makes us more attentive. It frames important words and actions.

2. Read together *Signs of Faith* on page 34 and ask children when they are most likely to see people kneeling. Ask them, why is kneeling a good way to pray? (*Possible answers: Being on our knees reminds us that God is greater than us; we kneel to show respect; we don't kneel in other places so kneeling reminds us of God.*)
3. Complete the *Reflect* activity on page 34.

## PARENT HANDOUT

Chapter 4

### ***Conversation Two***

4. Turn to page 35 and read *Ask for Forgiveness* and *Signs of Faith* with your child.
5. Ask children to share an example from their life. When was a time you asked someone to forgive you? Ask them how it felt to say, “Sorry.” (*Remember to say that it is not always easy to ask for forgiveness. Talk about responses we may receive. Assure your child it is worth the risk of rejection. Asking for forgiveness gives us peace.*)
6. Explain that asking for forgiveness is a gift to the person you have hurt, but also a gift to yourself.

**COACHING PLAN**

**Conversation Three**

7. Read together *Faith Focus* on page 36.

Before you read *A Woman Who Was Sorry* remind children that this story comes from the sacred words of Scripture. Ask them to prepare for this word by silently asking the Holy Spirit to open their heart so that God's word will plant itself in them like a seed planted in a garden.

Read children the story on page 37. Ask them to describe it back to you.

Now, discuss the questions:

How did the woman show Jesus she was sorry for her sins? *(She cried, washed Jesus' feet with her tears, dried his feet with her hair, kissed Jesus' feet, and poured oil on them.)*

How do you tell Jesus you are sorry? *(Possible responses: I tell him; I say a prayer; I say it to another person)*

8. Help your child complete the *We Are Sorry* activity sheet.

**Note:** The writer of the Gospel of Luke tends to pair people in his stories, contrasting their reactions and inviting the reader to make his or her own judgement. In this story, a Pharisee, a religious figure, is contrasted to a woman labeled as sinful. Yet, this woman performs the acts of hospitality that should have been done by the host who invited Jesus to eat at his house. This woman shows faith in Jesus' forgiveness.

## **PARENT HANDOUT**

Chapter 4

### ***Conversation Four***

9. To close your time together, read pages 38 and 39. This is a great time to share with your child how wonderful this experience will be for them. It is also an excellent opportunity to get in touch with your feelings about this sacrament and rediscover the gift that God offers us in Penance—the experience of his forgiveness.

**CALL to  
CELEBRATE**  
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**PARENT  
HANDOUT**

Chapter 4

***For Home***

1. Find your Bible and read together Luke 7:36-50. What do you think is the most important thing that Jesus is saying about forgiveness in this passage?
2. Now turn to the *Act* section on page 41 and complete the *Share Together* activity.
3. Pray together the *Family Prayer* on page 41.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# We Are Sorry

Here are some figures of people from the Scripture story. Color the figures, and then cut them out. On another sheet of paper, draw Simon's house. Use the figures to retell the Scripture story to someone who has not heard it.



**CALL to  
CELEBRATE**  
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**FACILITATOR'S  
GUIDE**

Chapter 5

**Materials Needed to Complete Session**

Chapter Five *Call to Celebrate Reconciliation*  
Parent Handout

Blank piece of paper (one per child)

Crayons and Pencils

*We Are Forgiven* activity sheet (one per child)

Scissors, glue

For the opening ritual:

- Bible
- Table covered with white cloth (prayer table)
- Candle and a large glass bowl filled with water
- Music CD for gathering prayer
- Select a child and parent to carry the Bible in procession

**Time Frame (60 minutes)**

Welcome and Call to Prayer  
10 mins.

Conversation One  
15 mins.

Conversation Two  
10 mins.

Conversation Three  
10 mins.

Conversation Four  
10 mins.

Closing  
5 mins.

**HOSPITALITY**

Warmly welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to find a seat together at a table. Ask them not to do anything with the handouts on the table until you are ready to begin the gathering prayer.

**WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER**

**10 mins.**

Welcome parents/guardians and children. Thank them for being there and that you hope they will enjoy some special time together with each other and with God. Invite them around the prayer table and begin the gathering prayer found on pages 42 and 43 of the student text.

**Conversation One**

**15 mins.**

1. Direct participants back to their seats.
2. Ask them to open their book to pages 44 and 45 and to place the parent handout beside it. Explain that the handout is self-directed and that you would like them to **complete steps 1-3.**



## FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Chapter 5

### ***Conversation Two***

***10 mins.***

1. Invite participants to turn their book to page 45 and their handout to page 2.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 4 and 5**.

### ***Conversation Three***

***10 mins.***

1. Now tell participants to turn to pages 46 and 47 in their book and page 3 of their handout.
2. Invite them to **complete steps 6 and 7**.

### ***Conversation Four***

***10 mins.***

1. Invite participants to turn to pages 48 and 49 in their book and page 4 of their handout.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 8 and 9**. Make sure each child has the *We Are Forgiven* activity sheet and the necessary supplies.

### ***Closing***

***5 mins.***

1. Guide the parents to the **For Home** page (page 5 in handout) and ask them to finish the rest of this lesson at home this week. Thank everyone for their participation and say that you look forward to seeing them on \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Conclude with the Closing Blessing found on page 50.

**COACHING PLAN**

**PARENT  
HANDOUT**

Chapter 5  
Begins on page 42

***Conversation One***

When two people love each other, they use words such as “I love you,” and concrete signs, such as embracing each other, in order to express their love. If one of the persons stopped using these signs, the other might begin to wonder if he or she were still loved.

In the Sacrament of Penance, God forgives us through the words of absolution or forgiveness and the imposition of hands upon the penitent. The words of the prayer reveal that this forgiveness comes through the death and Resurrection of Jesus. The cross is a central sign of forgiveness because it shows God’s willingness to give his only Son to atone for our sins.

1. Invite children to share their favorite part of the opening prayer on pages 42 and 43. Share what part you liked best. Make sure you each explain why you liked the part you chose.

**Note:** The imposition of hands in the context of the Sacrament of Penance signifies the presence of the Holy Spirit, working through the minister to free the penitent from the power of sin. The gesture also reminds us that Penance is a Sacrament of Healing.

2. Read together *Signs of Faith* on page 44.
3. Work together to complete the *Reflect* activity on page 44. Share with your child an example from your own life.

# PARENT HANDOUT

Chapter 5

## Conversation Two

4. Turn to page 45 and read *Brought Together Again* and *Signs of Faith* with your child.
5. Work with your child to create an acronym for Reconciliation – use each letter of the word Reconciliation to describe what it means. For example:

R – returning to God

E – everyone is loved by God

C – contrition, feeling sorry for my sins

Your turn!

R	_____
E	_____
C	_____
O	_____
N	_____
C	_____
I	_____
L	_____
I	_____
A	_____
T	_____
I	_____
O	_____
N	_____

COACHING PLAN

**CALL to  
CELEBRATE**  
RECONCILIATION

**PARENT  
HANDOUT**

Chapter 5

**Conversation Three**

6. Read together pages 46 and 47 and then discuss the following questions:

When the son returns, what does he want from his father?  
*(Possible responses: food, work, a safe place to live, his Father's forgiveness and love.)*

What does this story tell you about God? *(Possible responses: God will always forgive us; God is happy when we say we are sorry.)*

7. Help your child complete the *Share* box on page 47.

## PARENT HANDOUT

Chapter 5

### **Conversation Four**

8. Read pages 48 and 49 together, then discuss the question:

What happens in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? *(Possible responses: We think about our sins, feel sorrow for them, confess them to a priest, accept our penance, pray the Act of Contrition, and receive absolution. God forgives our sins. We are reconciled with the Church).*

9. Complete the *We Are Forgiven* activity sheet. For reference,

**Note:** It is normal for children to be nervous about celebrating the Sacrament of Penance for the first time. To help your child feel more comfortable, take time to role-play/practice the Rite of Penance with them. The movements of the sacrament are listed on page 69.

use pages 68 and 69.

COACHING PLAN

**PARENT  
HANDOUT**

Chapter 5

***For Home***

1. Find your Bible and read together Luke 15. What is Jesus telling us about God? Which of the three stories do you like best? Why?
2. Pray together the *Family Prayer* on page 51.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# We Are Forgiven

Here are the parts of a communal Reconciliation celebration. Cut them out and put them in order from beginning to end. Glue them in order on another sheet of paper. Then decorate the paper.

We pray an opening prayer.

We hear a homily.

We say or do our penance.

We receive a penance.

We receive absolution.

We hear a Scripture reading.

We examine our conscience.

We confess our sins.

**CALL to  
CELEBRATE**  
RECONCILIATION

**FACILITATOR'S  
GUIDE**

Chapter 6

**Materials Needed to Complete Session**

Chapter Six *Call to Celebrate Reconciliation*  
Parent Handout

Blank piece of paper

Crayons and Pencils

*We Go Forth* activity sheet (one per child)

Scissors and glue or tape

For the opening ritual:

- Bible
- Table covered with white cloth (prayer table)
- Candle and a large glass bowl filled with water
- Music CD for gathering prayer
- Select a child and parent to carry the Bible in procession

**Time Frame (60 minutes)**

Welcome and Call to Prayer  
10 mins.

Conversation One  
15 mins.

Conversation Two  
5 mins.

Conversation Three  
15 mins.

Conversation Four  
10 mins.

Closing  
5 mins.

**HOSPITALITY**

Warmly welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to find a seat together at a table. Ask them not to do anything with the handouts on the table until you are ready to begin the gathering prayer.

**WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER**

**10 mins.**

Welcome parents/guardians and children. Thank them for being there and tell them that you hope they will enjoy some special time together with each other and with God. Invite them around the prayer table and begin the gathering prayer found on pages 52 and 53 of the student text.

**Conversation One**

**15 mins.**

1. Direct participants back to their seats.
2. Ask them to open their book to page 52 and 53 and to place the parent handout beside it. Explain that the handout is self-directed and that you would like them to **complete steps 1 and 2.**



## FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Chapter 6

### *Conversation Two*

**5 mins.**

1. Invite participants to turn their book to page 55 and their handout to page 2.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 3 and 4**.

### *Conversation Three*

**15 mins.**

1. Tell participants to now turn to pages 56 and 57 in their book and page 3 in their handout.
2. Invite them to **complete steps 5 and 6**. Make sure each child has the *We Go Forth* activity sheet, along with crayons, scissors, and glue.

### *Conversation Four*

**10 mins.**

1. Invite participants to turn to page 58 in their book and page 4 in their handout.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 7 and 8**.

### *Closing*

**5 mins.**

1. Guide the parents to the **For Home** page (page 5 in the handout) and ask them to finish the rest of this lesson at home this week. Thank everyone for their participation and that you hope this time has been blessed and has helped them to prepare for this sacred moment in the life of their family.
2. Conclude with the Closing Blessing found on page 60.

**COACHING PLAN**

**CALL to  
CELEBRATE**  
RECONCILIATION

**PARENT  
HANDOUT**

Chapter 6  
Begins on page 52

**Conversation One**

Today, we will reflect on the meaning of penance, the final movement in the Sacrament of Penance. When someone is genuinely sorry for a wrong they have done and has asked for forgiveness, they often go to great lengths to show the other person how sorry they truly are. Penance can be understood in that light. Penance has a two-fold purpose; it serves as atonement (amends or reparation) for sin and as a sign of conversion (willingness to change).

When we celebrate this sacrament, we leave with the firm resolve to change what needs to be changed in our lives in order that we would grow in holiness—that we would become the person that God created us to be. The penance we carry is a sign of both our desire to make amends and the hope of our becoming more authentic disciples of Christ. Those who experience God's loving forgiveness in this sacrament, offer mercy and love in their actions and relationships.

1. Invite your child to share with you what part of the opening prayer on pages 52 and 53 reminded them of Mass. Share what you think peace means and what the world would be like if we lived in peace. Think of a person that your child knows who lives a truly peaceful life.

**Note:** The holy water used in the Sacrament of Baptism makes us one with Christ. Holy water is used at other times to bless people and objects. The water helps us to remember God's place in our lives. Just now, in our ritual you were sprinkled with water to remind you of your Baptism. The other ritual action we performed was the Sign of Peace. When we offer peace to one another, it is always the Lord's peace we give—a peace that begins with our trust that Jesus can turn all darkness into light.

2. Read together *Signs of Faith* on page 54, then help your child to complete the activity.

## PARENT HANDOUT

Chapter 6

### ***Conversation Two***

3. Turn to page 55 and read together *We Are Reconciled* and *Signs of Faith*.
4. Review with your child that conversion means to grow and change so we become more like Jesus. Think of a way you have seen your child grow emotionally or spiritually in the last year. Children often say, “When I was little...” to describe their own growth in understanding. Share what you have noticed with your child and tell him/her how proud you are when he/she does something good. (*He has learned to take his turn. She shares with others. He is doing better at handling anger or disappointment.*) Now, share a way that you hope to grow. (*Make more time to be at home. Volunteer in your local community. Pray more.*)

**COACHING PLAN**

**Conversation Three**

**5.** Read together *Faith Focus* on page 56.

Before you read *Jesus Appears to the Disciples*, remind your child that you are about to hear from Scripture, the Word of God. We are Jesus' disciples in this world and so Jesus is speaking to us right now in this place. Sharing God's word is one of the most special things a parent and child can do. Take a moment before you read, and silently ask the Holy Spirit to help you to hear what you need to hear in order to help you to grow in faith, hope, and love.

Read the Scripture story to your child. Ask him/her to tell the story back to you, then discuss the questions:

What do you think Jesus was sending the disciples to do? *(Possible responses: to share God's love, to forgive sins, to teach about God.)*

How are you forgiving of your friends? *(Possible responses: I say "You are Forgiven; or "It's OK", I do not hold a grudge.)*

**6.** Take out the *We Go Forth* activity sheet and work with your child to create a peace pole.

**Note:** Despite their betrayal, denial, and inability to remain faithful, the first words of the Risen Jesus to his disciples are, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19). John tells us that the risen Jesus not only speaks a message of peace to his disciples, but also affects that peace in the relationship he has with them. Jesus' words teach us that nothing the disciples could say or do could change God's desire for them—everlasting life with him.

# PARENT HANDOUT

Chapter 6

## *Conversation Four*

7. Read page 58 together. You may choose to read page 59 later at home.
8. What kind of commitment to forgiveness are you and your child willing to make? Help each other complete the ending of each sentence:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of parent) promise to be a  
forgiving person who \_\_\_\_\_

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of child) promise to be a  
forgiving person who \_\_\_\_\_

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Now, offer each other a Sign of Peace as you go forth to live out your promises and prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance.

**PARENT  
HANDOUT**

Chapter 6

***For Home***

1. Open your Bible and read together John 20:19-23. How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus appeared to them? Ask each person in your family: How will you be a peacemaker?
2. Pray together the *Family Prayer* on page 61.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## We Go Forth

Peace poles have been set up in many places throughout the world. A peace pole is a wooden pole with four sides. Each side has the prayer “May peace prevail on Earth” written on it in several languages. Peace poles are put where many people will see them. They remind us to work for peace every day. Here is a peace pole for you to make. Decorate it, and then cut it out. Fold it on the dotted lines. Tape or glue the flap to join the ends. Put the pole where you will see it often. It will remind you to thank God for the gift of peace in Reconciliation.

peace	paix	frid	pyeong-hwa (pyeong-hwa)
vrede	aman (aman)	pace	friede
paz	béke	mir (mir)	zhí-bde-ne (zhi-bde-ne)
salaam (salaam)	damai	heiwa (heiwa)	iríni (iríni)