

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 2 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 19 WE CELEBRATE FORGIVENESS

Objectives

- Examine the role that contrition plays in asking forgiveness.
- Develop an understanding of how we celebrate God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Examine the steps to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Affirm the importance of examining one's conscience.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 114–115

Write the words "I'm sorry" on a piece of paper. Ask your child when we might say those words. (when we've done something wrong, when we've hurt someone) Invite your child to think of other ways to say "I'm sorry." (Possible answers: Please forgive me; I didn't mean to hurt you; I was wrong; Please accept my apology.)

Invite your child to imagine Jesus' love shining on them like the warm rays of the sun. Pray the opening **Prayer** together.

Have your child close his or her eyes while you read aloud the text on page 114. Pause after each question to allow your child to consider his or her response. Ask your child to tell you about how he or she felt after they were forgiven.

Have your child do the **Activity** on page 114.

Read or summarize the first paragraph on page 115. Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to clarify the meaning of the word *contrition*. Ask: Why is it important for us to want to do better in the future after we come back into God's friendship? (so that we don't do the wrong thing again; to show God that we are truly sorry for what we have done)

Before reading **Scripture Story: The Woman Who Was Sorry**, point out to your child that it is often important to show we are sorry with our actions as it is to say we are sorry with our words.

After reading the **Scripture Story** aloud, ask: What did the woman who was sorry do? (She washed and dried Jesus' feet and put sweet-smelling oil on them.) What did Jesus do for the woman? (He forgave her.)

Explain that although the woman's way of expressing her sorrow might seem strange to us, in Jesus' time it was the custom for guests to wear sandals, and to be offered fresh water to wash their feet when they came into a home. It was also the custom to anoint important people with sweet smelling oil.

Ask: How can you tell from the picture that the woman is sorry and that Jesus is willing to forgive her? (The woman is crying and drying Jesus' feet with her hair, and Jesus is looking at the woman with gentleness and reaching out his hand to her.)

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 116–117

Read aloud the first paragraph of **The Sacrament of Reconciliation** on page 116. Be sure your child understands that *reconciliation* means bringing back or improving friendship and making thing right again.

As you continue to read, use the **Language of Faith** at the back of the textbook to develop further understanding of the highlighted words.

Read **Catholics Believe** on page 116 and explain that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is called a "Sacrament of Healing." Have your child look at the photo and then read the photo caption.

Turn to **Stepping Stones** on page 117 and invite your child to recall what their conscience is. (It is a gift from God that reminds us to always love and do what is right.) Read aloud the first paragraph of **Examining Your Conscience**. Explain to your child that when we examine our words and actions we think about them very carefully.

Have your child get comfortable and close his or her eyes. Read aloud each of the questions, pausing after each one to allow sufficient time for your child to answer the questions silently.

Assure your child that when they talk to a priest about these questions or about their sins, the priest acts as Jesus and treats them with love and respect.

Make it clear to your child that God always forgives the sins of people who are genuinely sorry. Ask: How does examining your conscience help you prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation? (It helps you decide what wrong choices you have made.)

Read aloud **Where Will This Lead Me?** on the bottom of page 117. Affirm your child in his or her attempts to develop understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the practice of examining his or her conscience.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 118

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall, Think and Share**, and **Continue the Journey**. Have your child complete the activity.

Read **We Live Our Faith: At Home and In the Parish**. Try to follow through on the suggestions found there.

Refer to the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook for clarification and review of all highlighted words.

Complete the **Unit Five Review** on pages 120–121 in the text.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 37–38.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 119

Read the **Prayer of Contrition**. Remind your child that contrition is one of the first steps we take in order to experience God’s forgiveness.

Invite your child to study the photographs. Ask: How do all the pictures on this page show that we want to ask forgiveness and be forgiven? (The open Bible and priest’s stole are symbols of the Sacrament of Reconciliation; the card shows a person who is expressing contrition.)

Pray the closing **Prayer** by inviting your child to respond to each petition with: “*But you love us and come to us.*” End with the Lord’s Prayer.

Some children (and adults) may not be comfortable with the idea of confessing their sins to a priest. Assure your child that the priest cannot tell the sins told to them in the sacrament to anyone else, even his or her parents. We call this secrecy the *seal of confession*. Your child may also be unsure of how to begin celebrating the rite. Assure your child that the priest is there to help.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 56–58.