

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 5 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 19 FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

Objectives

- Discover ways in which God forgives and heals.
- Recognize that God is merciful and willing to forgive.
- Compare and contrast the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), pages 142–143

To help your child appreciate the natural process of healing, describe a situation in which someone was injured and restored to health. Then explain to your child that this chapter is about healing and a related experience, forgiveness. Pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 142.

After you have read the text with your child, ask him or her to define *forgiveness* and *healing* in his or her own words. If you need to, consult a dictionary. Ask: What are the two *Sacraments of Healing*? (the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation)

Have your child identify the two photos on pages 142–143 that show the Sacraments of Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation. Ask your child to describe these and the remaining pictures, which show an adult caring for an injured child, a young man receiving physical therapy, and two students making peace after a disagreement.

Discuss examples of healing and forgiveness you and your child have experienced or witnessed.

Explain that sin and sickness are a part of the human condition. Even though we have the power through grace to resist temptation, the fact is, everyone sins. Only Jesus and Mary were sinless. Ask: How do the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and the Anointing of the Sick help us deal with sin and sickness? (The answer should convey the idea that each helps us in body and soul.)

Have your child complete the **Activity** on page 143.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 144–147

Briefly review a few of the examples of forgiveness and healing pictured on the previous page. Then read and discuss the **Scripture Story: A Generous Father**, page 144. Have your child answer the bulleted question. (The son had separated himself from his family; he had sinned against heaven and his father.)

Ask your child to describe the illustration on page 144. Point out the use of a hug to show the reconciliation of father and son. Have your child compare this gesture with those shown in the photographs shown on pages 142–143.

With your child complete the **Activity** on this page.

Read **Catholics Believe**. Emphasize that ultimately only God can forgive sin. Through the apostles and their followers, Jesus continues the work of forgiving sin and reconciling sinners. One way God forgives sin is through the *Sacraments of Healing*.

Read **Our Moral Guide** on page 145. Refer to the **Language of Faith** at the back of the textbook for clarification of the word *contrition*. Have your child answer the question in **Our Moral Guide**. (Without contrition we have not admitted the wrong, nor are we open to forgiveness.)

Read **Always Welcome** on page 145 and the *Act of Contrition* on page 220. Have your child identify the attitudes found in it. (sorrow for sin, sincere desire to change, genuine love for God)

Help your child complete the **Activity** on page 145. Encourage him or her to pray this prayer often.

As you read **A Life-Giving Touch** on page 146, emphasize the importance of touch for human health and happiness. Babies who are not held, hugged, and cuddled become withdrawn and do not develop normally. People who have little or no contact with others may eventually grow so despondent that they no longer want to live.

Explain that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is not magical, nor should it replace appropriate medical care. The sacrament gives strength and healing because, through it, people who are sick or suffering realize that they are valued members of the Church community, that God loves them, and that they are not alone in their struggle.

When discussing the Anointing of the Sick, you may want to explain that the sacrament was once called *Extreme Unction*, which meant “last anointing.” *Extreme Unction* was celebrated only when a person was dying. Today the Church recognizes the life-giving aspect of the sacrament and encourages anyone who is elderly, seriously ill, or about to have surgery to participate in it.

When discussing the photo of the Anointing of the Sick and its caption, ask those students who have attended a parish celebration of this sacrament to describe what happened. Who received the sacrament? What sacred words were prayed? What symbols were used? What actions were part of the celebration? Did the people sing and pray during the anointing?

Read the chart on page 147 on the **Sacraments of Healing**. In discussing the text under Reconciliation, refer to the *Examination of Conscience* and information on the communal and individual rites of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on page 226. Point out that Reconciliation has four elements: contrition (or repentance), confession of sins, satisfaction (penance), and absolution (forgiveness). The purpose of penance is to make up for a sin.

When you discuss the text under **Anointing of the Sick**, explain that the oil used in the sacrament is called the *oil of the sick*. It is olive oil that has been blessed by a bishop at the Chrism Mass held on or close to Holy Thursday.

Call attention to the photographs on page 147. Ask: What is common to both pictures? (the laying on of hands) Explain that this gesture is an expression of healing.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Daily Life), page 148

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—especially making the card.

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

Complete **Unit 5 Review** on pages 150–151 in your text.

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

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 149

Ask your child to recall specific examples of forgiveness and healing discussed in this chapter. Remind him or her that God offers us these gifts whenever we are sincerely sorry for our sins.

After reading **Forgive Our Sins** on page 149, emphasize that the Sacrament of Reconciliation may be celebrated in different ways: anonymously behind a screen in a confessional, face-to-face in the Reconciliation room, or communally in a parish Reconciliation service with private confession and absolution (or in exceptional circumstances, without private confession).

Ask: What Scripture story is depicted in the painting on page 149? (the parable of the generous father forgiving his son—also called the Prodigal Son) Point out that the words on this painting from Poland mean “Father, I have sinned.” Ask your child to describe the photographs of a parish Reconciliation service.

End the lesson by praying together the **Prayer** on page 149.