

1

Ask your child to list the **parties and holidays** that he or she likes best.

Ask why he or she likes parties?

2

Explain that the Church family also celebrates special times. One of those times is when we confess our sins and accept God's forgiveness into our lives.

6 Reconciliation: Let's Celebrate!



This is a party!

- > What happens at a party?
- > Who likes a party?
- > Why do we have parties?

It's a Celebration!

- > We **celebrate** when we're happy about something or when it's a special day.
- > In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we are happy because we feel better after we confess our sins.
- > Jesus makes us free, so it's time for a party!

God loves us! We celebrate!

3

Take the time now to **plan a small party** for your child for after he or she celebrates reconciliation for the first time. Invite your child to help plan it. You may wish to join with other families for this. The child can suggest who should be invited to the party, what kind of food to have, and decide if there should be presents (of course there should be!)

1

Pray this with your child. When the time comes, help your child write an invitation to Jesus to come into his or her heart. Use the form below for that purpose. The words are: heart, friend, confession, sin, your child's name as a signature.



Prayer Celebration

Growing up Catholic means celebrating with the Church!

Everyone begins by making the Sign of the Cross.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Thank you, Jesus, for helping us live as your children.

All: Thank you for making us free through reconciliation.

Please listen to the reading: 1 Corinthians 2:9.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Please listen to the leader.

When the time comes, bring up your folded slip of paper and place it on the table.

Leader: Let us now pray together this prayer, thinking about each word:

Please pause after each line:

All: I confess to almighty God
And to you my brothers and sisters
That I have sinned through my own fault:
In my thoughts and in my words
In what I have done
and in what I have failed to do.
Now I ask Blessed Mary, ever Virgin,
All the angels and saints,
And you my brothers and sisters
To pray for me to the Lord our God.
Amen.



Dear Jesus,

I invite you to come into my _____ because I want to be your _____.

Help me to change my life and _____ no more.

Thank you for loving me,

1

Help your child understand that when he or she goes to confession (aka reconciliation,) they will be taking part in a **sacrament**.

2

Ask them to tell what signs there are that you love them. The signs point to something that your child can't actually see, but which are still very real. Some of the signs might be:

- You take care of all their needs
- You hug them
- You listen to them when they are sad
- You work hard to support them as your family

3

Sacraments all have **special signs/symbols** – helping us move from what we cannot see to what we can see, hear, and touch. For example, in baptism, there were certain signs (which are listed here).

5

The **seven sacraments** are: baptism, confirmation, eucharist (communion), reconciliation, anointing of the sick, matrimony (marriage), and ordination. Each has special signs, but for today, we are only concerned with baptism and reconciliation.



What Is a Sacrament?

- > It's something we can see, hear, taste, feel or smell.
- > It comes to us from Jesus
- > It help us be stronger and helps us to know Jesus.
- > It is a sign of God's love for us.



Baptism

- > We **feel** the water when we are put into it or when it is poured over us.
- > We **hear** the words of the priest or deacon: "I baptize you in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."
- > We **see** the flickering candle – a sign of Jesus' presence.

What are the signs of Reconciliation?

Fill in the missing letters to complete the words below.

We tell the priest our sins when we

C O F S

We hear the words when the priest gives us

A S L U I N

We see the priest make the Sign of the

C S

4

Then help them understand the outward signs of the sacrament of reconciliation. The three words you need here are: confess, absolution, and cross.

1

Ask your child to **read this passage aloud**. The name Zacchaeus is pronounced: zah-kay-us. Help him or her say it aloud.

2

Ask your child to re-tell the story in his or her own words.



Meeting Jesus in the Bible

A Man Who Wanted to See Jesus

There was a huge crowd
and everyone was trying to see Jesus.

A local rich man named **Zacchaeus**
who collected people's taxes
climbed up into a **tree** to see better
because he was very **short**.

When **Jesus** came along,
he saw him up in the tree and called to him.

"Come down.
I want to have supper with you
at your house tonight."

Zacchaeus came down and received Jesus **joyfully**.

But the people grumbled.
"He's a thief," they said.
"Why does Jesus want to be with him?"

But Zacchaeus said,
"From now on, I will give half of my income to the poor.
"If I have robbed anyone, I will **restore** it to them."

Jesus knew his heart and said,
"You are really a good person.
Salvation has come to your house today.
I have come to save the **lost!**"

Then they had a big party!



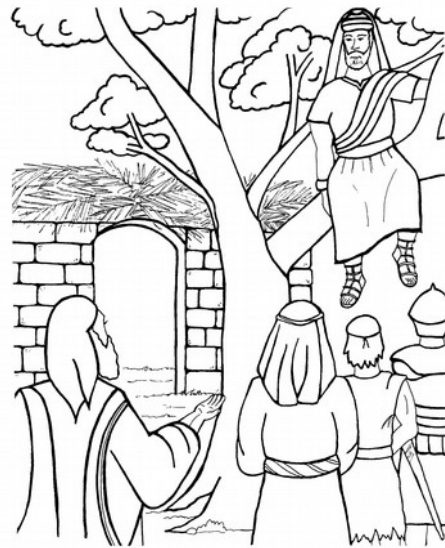
Based on Luke 19:1-10

1

Time for a break! Help your child color this image of the Bible story.



Color This Picture



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From Papa Francis

Pope Francis encourages us to party: “A Christian is one who is invited. Invited to what? To a shop? To take a walk? The Lord wants to tell us something more: You are invited to join in the feast, to the joy of being saved, to the joy of being redeemed, to the joy of sharing life with Christ. This is a joy! You are called to a party! A feast is a gathering of people who talk, laugh, celebrate, are happy together. I have never seen anyone party on their own. That would be boring, no? ...You have to party with others, with the family, with friends, with those who’ve been invited, as I was invited. Being Christian means belonging, belonging to this body, to the people that have been invited to the feast: this is Christian belonging.”

Photo by Presidência da República/Roberto Stuckert Filho, Agência Brasil.

1

Now help your child fill in this **puzzle**. For some students, this will be slightly above their abilities, but with your help, he or she will be able to do it.

2

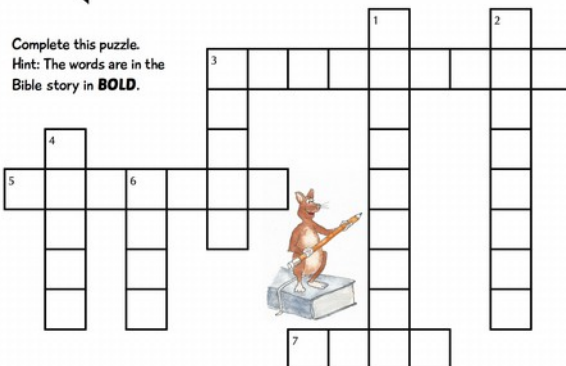
The words you need for this puzzle are all highlighted in the scripture passage on page 4 of this lesson.

Here they are in order:

Down: Zacchaeus, short, tree, Jesus, joyfully.

Across: restore, salvation, lost.

Reviewing the Bible



Down

- 1: There was a man named ____ who was a tax collector.
- 3: He wanted to see Jesus, but was very ____.
- 6: So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore ____.
- 4: And when ____ got there, he looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Come down. I want to have supper with you tonight."
- 2: So he hurried and came down, and received Jesus ____."

Across

- 5: Then Zacchaeus said to Jesus, "I will give half of my income to the poor; and if I have robbed anyone, I will ____ it to them."
- 3: Jesus said to him, "____ has come to your house today."
- 7: For I have come to seek and to save that which was ____."

3

Explain that Zacchaeus **restored** to others what he stole because that is what we are called to do.

1

This is the final review of the steps for the sacrament of reconciliation.

Help your child put these steps into **the correct order**. We have given two clues: step #2 and #4. Here is the correct order:

1. The welcome
2. Bible reading
3. Confess sins
4. Advice from the priest
5. Act of Contrition & Penance
6. Absolution
7. Go in peace



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Number the steps of the sacrament in the correct order.



We go in peace



The priest welcomes us to the Reconciliation room



2

There is a reading from the Bible



We accept the Penance and make a good Act of Contrition



The priest gives us Absolution for our sins



We confess our sins to the priest



4

The priest gives us advice and asks us to do a Penance

2

The best way to prepare your child in these final days before the sacrament is to **role play the steps** with them. You play the role of the priest and ask your child to do the rest.

1

At home this week, work with your child to help them think about how to make your home more welcoming for Jesus. Of course, Jesus does visit your house all the time!



At Home This Week

Invite Jesus to Your House



If you were to invite Jesus to visit your house, what things would you do to get ready for him?

What would you change in your house?

Can you and your family do those things now?



Tips and Activities for This Week

<http://GrowingUpCatholic.com/reconciliation6>

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2

Even though this is the last session, be sure to check out the online page for this lesson at GrowingUpCatholic.com/reconciliation6. Take a look at the other resources on the website, in case you want to come back to them later.