



Celebrating Reconciliation

Engage: Page 99

- ▶ Wear a bandage and ask: *What does a bandage do? (helps a wound heal) What kind of hurt has nothing to do with our bodies? (hurt feelings)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Say:** *These people are sharing reconciliation, which happens when you forgive someone and let go of bad feelings after arguing. Hugs and apologies are like forgiveness bandages. In this session we'll read about forgiveness.*
- ▶ Ask your child to decorate a bandage and wear it as a reminder to offer someone his or her forgiveness. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 100–101

- ▶ Share a sign of peace with your child. **Say:** *We exchange this sign of peace to share with each other the peace that Jesus shares with us.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 100. **Ask:** *When do we receive the gifts of peace and forgiveness? (in the Sacrament of Reconciliation)*
- ▶ Read aloud The Peace of Forgiveness on page 101. **Ask:** *When we totally reject God, what kind of sin do we commit? (mortal sin) What are less serious sins called? (venial sins)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus' Words of Forgiveness and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Ask:** *When do we share the Sign of Peace at Mass? (after praying the Lord's Prayer and before we receive Holy Communion)*

Art Exploration: Page 243

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a group of people happy to be with one another.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the colors and emotion.
- ▶ **Say:** *Forgiving people can be hard, but being a member of God's family means sometimes making hard choices.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 243. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Peaceful Ending. **Ask:** *What gives us a feeling of peace? (when we confess our sins and receive forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation)*

- ▶ Read aloud Forgiveness. **Ask:** *What did you do to bring about a peaceful ending? Was it difficult?* Give your child time to write about his or her experience and share it with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *This psalm expresses how God wants to give peace and forgiveness to his people. We receive both when we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*
- ▶ Brainstorm various peace symbols. Give your child art supplies to make a bumper sticker using one of these symbols. Have your child fold a sheet of drawing paper in half to make a long rectangle. Ask him or her to write the message neatly and then illustrate the bumper sticker. Display the "sticker" in your home.

Reflect: Pages 102–103

- ▶ Together look at page 102. **Say:** *The boys in the picture are showing that they care about each other. They are being like Jesus and following in his footsteps.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Lead your child in praying the Act of Contrition. Spend time in silence, thanking Jesus for his gift of forgiveness. Then pray together *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud Bringing Peace to Others on page 103. **Ask:** *How do you feel when someone you've hurt forgives you?* (happy, peaceful)
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the situations presented in Choose Peace. Guide your child to see which choice brings peace to both people. **Say:** *Remember that God wants us to forgive everyone, whether or not the person asks for our forgiveness.*

Respond: Page 104

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can forgive others and be willing to admit being wrong about something.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.