

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains how we celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and how forgiveness heals people and relationships with God and the Church.

God's Word



Read **Luke 7:36–39, 44–50** to learn more about how Jesus invites us to look at how we forgive.

Catholics Believe

- In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, you receive God's forgiveness.
- This Sacrament also celebrates your friendship with God and the Church.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1422–1424 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint Benedict-Joseph Labré, a homeless beggar who was a very holy man.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Children at this age might feel nervous about confessing their sins to a priest. They might worry about what the priest will think of them. Tell them that the priest has likely heard every sin confessed and cannot talk to anyone about their confession. The priest is a visible sign of both Christ and the Church, and confession to a priest gives us a chance to experience God's forgiveness in a way that we can see. It's also helpful for children to see a parent receive this Sacrament.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

What makes you believe that someone is truly sorry?

How easy it is to tell "imperfect sorrow" when you have to direct your child to tell his sister he is sorry! In our adult lives it takes great trust to believe that who hurt you is truly sorry. "Contrition that arises from the love of God above all else is called 'perfect contrition.' This loving sorrow remits [forgives] venial sins and even mortal sins so long as we resolve to confess them as soon as possible. When other motives, such as the ugliness of sin or fear of damnation, bring us to confession, this is called 'imperfect contrition,' which is sufficient for forgiveness in the Sacrament" (*USCCA, pp. 237–238*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to describe what happens in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (confession, penance, contrition, and absolution).
- Talk about ways your family asks for and gives forgiveness.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Dear God, we are sorry for all that we have done wrong, and with your help, we promise to do better in the future. Saint Benedict-Joseph Labré, pray for us. Amen.



Visit aliveinchrist.osv.com for additional resources and activities.