

Healing and Reconciliation

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 251,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 503

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Explore conversion, turning away from sin and responding to God's love and forgiveness, relating their own lives to the example of Zacchaeus
- Understand that in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, we receive God's forgiveness of sins through the Church and are strengthened by grace to make peace and avoid temptation.
- Discover that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick brings Jesus' healing touch to strengthen, comfort, and forgive the sins of those who are seriously ill or close to death

Turn to Page 243,
Healing and Reconciliation
Vivos en Cristo, Page 487

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *As humans we are fallible and fragile on many levels. God's plan for us is that we will be whole and well, physically and spiritually. God offers us healing grace. He gave the Church the mission of his continued healing by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Sacraments of Healing make us stronger on our journey of faith. We are strengthened when we allow God's mercy and forgiveness to flow in our lives and through our families as we participate in these Sacraments.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Salve Regina
- Zacchaeus

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that there is something we can do to feel better after we have hurt someone.

Say: When we do something harmful to someone we love, we feel sorrow and guilt. Looking at the face of the person we hurt helps us realize this. Listen to the Word of God which describes how to have a happy life again.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God’s Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God’s Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Invite your child to respond and also share what you heard.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: When we do something harmful to someone else, when we sin, the sorrow we feel is heavy in our hearts. Even though God already knows what we have done, we still need to confess our sins. In telling God, through the priest, our sins, we experience God’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about God’s forgiveness and the Sacraments of Healing.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 244,
God’s Forgiveness
Vivos en Cristo, Page 489

Read the opening question and the first paragraph.

Review the definition of the highlighted word, **repent**, in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Proclaim the Scripture story in the Parchment Paper box.

Ask: Why was Zacchaeus unpopular? (He cheated people.) How did Zacchaeus change after he met Jesus? (He repaid those he had cheated and gave money to those who were poor.) Point out that Jesus offered him friendship, and that this led to the change in Zacchaeus.

Ask: Who has taught you the most about forgiveness? What did the person say or do?

Turn to Page 245,
Conversion
Vivos en Cristo, Page 491

Read aloud the first paragraph to reinforce the message of Zacchaeus. Point out the word conversion. Tell your child it mean “a change of heart.”

Ask: Who experienced conversion in the story? (Zacchaeus)

Have your child silently read the second paragraph to learn how the Church continues Jesus’ actions.

Review the highlighted words, **Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation**, **confession**, and **temptation**, and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 244.

Activity

Do the Share Your Faith activity. Share with your child ways they can show they are sorry and make peace with others.

Turn to Page 246,
The Sacraments of Healing
Vivos en Cristo, Page 493

Read aloud the opening question and the paragraphs. Review any terms that might be unfamiliar to your child. Find the definitions for **sacramental seal**, **penance**, and **absolution** in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Forgiving and reconciling are closely related but distinct. Forgiveness involves letting go of sin and accepting God's forgiveness. It means getting past the hurt and anger; it is the choice to change your thoughts, attitudes, and actions toward another person. Reconciliation means restoring the relationship. Reconciliation means bringing friends and families together again. When we reconcile we reconnect to others—and to God. Both forgiveness and reconciling need to be high priorities in order for your family to grow closer to each other and to God.*

Ask: Why is it important to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation? *(It offers us God's forgiveness.)*

Turn to Page 247,
God's Healing Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 495

Read aloud the first paragraph. **Review** the definition for the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** in the Catholic Faith Word's box.

Have your child silently read the second paragraph to introduce the Scripture.



Proclaim the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box. Read it as a play if possible. Emphasize to your child that God gave Jesus the power to heal people so that people could come to know God's healing love.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 248,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 497

Talk with your child about how he or she feels about preparing for this Sacrament.

Summarize the paragraphs.

Ask: What do you think it will feel like after you celebrate this Sacrament?



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 249,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 499

Read the paragraph about Venerable Matt Talbot.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about a time when you hurt someone and had to ask for forgiveness.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *To examine our conscience requires that we look at our soul and contemplate our character. If we are truly examining our lives, we will admit our flaws and mistakes. We learn this in everyday family life. Be a model of this way of life for your child. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is an opportunity to ask for support in acquiring virtue and a way to receive guidance in becoming a better person.*

Turn to Page 251,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 503

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (see Page 323), during your night prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.