

1st Reconciliation Preparation

Lesson Plans – Using the Family Guide (FG) and the Children’s Books (CB)

Family Guide - “Together, preparing at home for First Reconciliation” will be referred heavily to in these lesson plans. The program will guide you in helping your child understand both what we believe as Catholics and how to live out those beliefs. The focus of your preparation is not only for your child’s first celebration of this sacrament but more importantly for a lifetime of regular participation in this sacrament of God’s love and mercy.

Please make sure you read the beginning of the guide (pgs 1 through 7) before you start working with your child. The beginning of the guide has a lot of helpful background information, dealing with – is my child ready, how does my child morally develop, what does my child need to know, the important parts of the sacrament, preparing your child and then the features of the guide and how to use it. Your homework is to read the beginning of the guide before you start Reconciliation preparation with your child.

Each chapter begins with a grown up section containing a short “life Lesson”, and then gives a brief info session on “Your child’s moral development and teaches a Catholic fact. The chp then continues with a section for the family to teach the pages in the Children’s Book ends in a brief prayer. Then gives ideas of how you can live the lessons that week.

The guidance in the Family guide does not touch on each page in the Children’s Book (CB), therefore the accompanying lesson plans are more comprehensive and should be used.

In the Family guide on the “Grown ups and Kids” pages the text in red is directions for you the text in black is for you to read to your family/child while teaching the lessons.

Children’s Book (CB) – The children’s book is broken into 6 chapters. Each chapter has four sections – **Engage, Explore, Reflect and Respond**. **Engage** opens the chapter by setting the stage and building background. Prayer is an integral part of the preparation. **Explore** brings scripture to life through story and interactive sticker activities. Exploration of concepts continues thorough reading, conversation and fun activities. In **Reflect** concepts are prayerfully examined as the children experience traditional prayer, guided reflections and psalms. Finally, in **Respond** the children are engaged as the they important parts of the chapter.

My Own Reconciliation Booklet – A summary of all the children learned in the CB. To be completed between the 2nd workshop and the Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and then kept by the children so they can refer to it when preparing to receive reconciliation again.

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Chapter 1 – God Calls Us Friends

Lesson Plan

Before hand: Read pages 8 through 13 of the Family Guide (FG) as preparation.

With your child:

- FG pg 11 Step 1 - 3 Minute Retreat - celebrate as a family
- Introduce the children's book (CB) and talk about Reconciliation with your child
- CB Pg 1 – introduce the chapter, ask what makes a good friend, have them write a fun thing they do with friends in the space provided, pray the prayer on the page
- FG pg 11 Step 2 - using the guide lead your child through the story on CB pgs 2 and 3, use the stickers in the back of the book for this chapter. Additional questions to ask are: 1) Why did God make Adam and Eve (he wanted friends to share in his garden) 2) Who tempted Adam and Eve? (Satan)
- CB pg 4 Say: “Adam and Eve made a choice to disobey God by eating from the tree. They did not act as God’s friends and lost the special gift that God had given them. They made the wrong choice. But God never stopped loving them.” Then do the echo pantomime with your child – you say and do the gestures for a line and they repeat you. Continue with each sentence.
- FG pg 12 Step 3 – using the guide lead you child though CB pgs 5 and 6. The words in **BOLD** print are found in the glossary starting on pg 77 (please stop and visit the glossary and read the meaning of the words to your child).
- CB pg 7 – please complete the activity with your child in the space provided
- FG pg 12 – Step 4 Use the guide to help lead your family through the prayers to end your session together. Start by reading “God Cares for Us” to the child then please let the children take the lead with the prayers.
- CB pgs 10 – read together to review what you learned together in this chapter.
- FG pg 13 – read and consider activities you might like to do with your child during the week to reinforce the lesson.

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Chapter 2 – Jesus Saves Us

Lesson Plan

Before hand: Read pages 14 through 19 of the Family Guide (FG) as preparation.

With your child:

- Review Chapter 1 by going over CB pg 10
- FG pg 17 Step 1 - 3 Minute Retreat celebrate as a family
- CB Pg 11 – introduce the chapter, tell them about a time someone they know came to your rescue (helped you find something, do something, save you in some way), ask them to tell you about a time someone came to their rescue, pray the prayer on the page
- FG pg 17 Step 2 - using the guide lead your child through the story on CB pgs 12 and 13, use the stickers in the back of the book for this chapter. Additional questions to ask are: 1)What did Jesus give up to save us (his life) 2) What is something we could give up to help someone (Accept all helpful answers – some of your lunch if you friend is hungry, going out to dinner to spend the money helping the food pantry, etc) . Explain we give what we have out of love for others.
- FG pg 18 Step 3 – using the guide lead you child though CB pgs 14 and 16. The words in **BOLD** print are found in the glossary starting on pg 77 (please stop and visit the glossary and read the meaning of the words to your child). Get out some pictures of your child’s Baptism and talk about that day with them. Have them call their Godparents and ask about their Baptism. If you have pictures of your or a sibling’s Eucharist or Confirmation show your child and talk about that day.
- CB pg 15. Help you child write an email to God thanking him for all the good things he does.
- CB pg 17 – please complete the activity with your child in the space provided
- FG pg 18 – Step 4 Use the guide to help lead your family through the prayers to end your session together. Start by reading “The Sign of the Cross” to the child then please let the children take the lead with the prayers.
- CB pgs 20 – read together to review what you learned together in this chapter.
- FG pg 19 – read and consider activities you might like to do with your child during the week to reinforce the lesson.
- **Have your child complete hand out N – make sure your child’s name is on it**

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Chapter 3 – Jesus Forgives Us

Lesson Plan

Before hand: Read pages 20 through 25 of the Family Guide (FG) as preparation.

With your child:

- Review Chapter 2 by going over CB pg 20
- FG pg 23 Step 1 - 3 Minute Retreat celebrate as a family
- CB Pg 21 – introduce the chapter, tell them about a time you made a wrong choice and how you were given a second chance, ask them to share a time they made a choice that they realized later was not a good choice, did they get a second chance? How did they feel? pray the prayer on the page
- FG pg 23 Step 2 - using the guide lead your child through the story on CB pgs 22 and 23, use the stickers in the back of the book for this chapter. Additional questions to ask are: 1) Do we ever do things that hurt other people? 2) How do we feel when someone forgives us? Explain that Jesus loved Matthew and saw the goodness in him. Jesus loves us and sees the goodness in us. He chooses us to be his friends. He will always give us a second chance.
- FG pg 24 Step 3 – using the guide lead you child though CB pgs 24 and 26. The words in **BOLD** print are found in the glossary starting on pg 77 (please stop and visit the glossary and read the meaning of the words to your child). Spend a lot of time talking about mistakes, accidents and sins. Mistakes and accidents aren't sins, go over a lot of examples **Complete hand out D – Accident or Sin** – make sure your child's name is on it.
- CB pg 25. Have your child draw a smiley face on the good choices Jeff made and a sad face on the bad choices he made. Then talk with them about the bad choices and what Jeff could have done differently to make them a good choice.
- CB pg 27 – please complete the activity with your child in the space provided
- FG pg 24 – Step 4 Use the guide to help lead your family through the prayers to end your session together. Start by reading “Always With Us” to the child then please let the children take the lead with the prayers.
- CB pgs 30 – read together to review what you learned together in this chapter.
- FG pg 25 – read and consider activities you might like to do with your child during the week to reinforce the lesson. We will be making Second chance cards during the Reconciliation workshop so please don't do those!

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Chapter 4 – Jesus Heals Us

Lesson Plan

Before hand: Read pages 26 through 31 of the Family Guide (FG) as preparation.

With your child:

- Review Chapter 3 by going over CB pg 30
- FG pg 29 Step 1 - 3 Minute Retreat celebrate as a family
- CB Pg 31 – introduce the chapter, show the children a picture of a package marked “Fragile” or “handle with care” ask them why some packages are marked this way and to name items that might be fragile. Then say “we are like these packages because we also need special care.” Then ask them what kind of special care we might need. Help them write the names of people who love and care for them. Pray the prayer on the page
- FG pg 29 Step 2 - using the guide lead your child through the story on CB pgs 32 and 33, use the stickers in the back of the book for this chapter. Additional questions to ask are: 1) Did the man’s friends help him get to Jesus? (yes, broke through the roof) 2) Did the friends have faith that Jesus could help their friend? (yes) . Then explain that Jesus not only healed the man’s body (he got up and walked) but he also healed his soul, his relationship with God, by forgiving his sins.
- FG pg 30 Step 3 – using the guide lead you child though CB pgs 34 and 36. The words in **BOLD** print are found in the glossary starting on pg 77 (please stop and visit the glossary and read the meaning of the words to your child). Spend some time talking about ways to say or show in actions we are sorry and ways to say or show in actions we forgive someone
- CB pg 35. Have your child circle phases that show they want to be forgiven. Then talk with them about asking for forgiveness and forgiving others who ask us to
- CB pg 37 – please complete the activity with your child in the space provided. The stickers for this page are on the very last page of the CB sticker section. Have them put the sticker of how they would like to receive Reconciliation
- FG pg 30 – Step 4 Use the guide to help lead your family through the prayers to end your session together. Start by reading “Stop and Think”. The questions on these two pages are an examination of conscience – the act of thinking about our actions and whether they were good or bad. Leads into the next chapter please spend time with it.
- CB pgs 40 – read together to review what you learned together in this chapter.
- FG pg 25 – read and consider activities you might like to do with your child during the week to reinforce the lesson.
- **Have your child complete hand out O – make sure your child’s name is on it**

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Chapter 5 – The Holy Spirit Guides Us
Lesson Plan

Before hand: Read pages 32 through 37 of the Family Guide (FG) as preparation.

With your child:

- Review Chapter 4 by going over CB pg 40
- FG pg 35 Step 1 - 3 Minute Retreat celebrate as a family
- CB Pg 41 – introduce the chapter, Read the page and look at the picture: Talk about how we welcome people into our home, into our classrooms. What do we do to make them feel welcome? What makes us feel welcome? Pray the prayer on the page
- FG pg 35 Step 2 - using the guide lead your child through the story on CB pgs 42 and 43, use the stickers in the back of the book for this chapter. Additional questions to ask are:
1) Why is this a good story for us as we prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation? (When we sin, we are like the young man, when we ask God to forgive us, God welcomes us like the father welcomed his son)
- FG pg 30 Step 3 – using the guide lead you child though CB pgs 44 and 45 and then pgs 46 and 47. The words in **BOLD** print are found in the glossary starting on pg 77 (please stop and visit the glossary and read the meaning of the words to your child). These four pages are very, very important. They are teaching the children how to examine their conscience and how to receive reconciliation. Please go through them slowly and make sure the children understand. Please review them more than once. Go to page 66 and 67. These pages are a child version of questions one would ask to examine their conscience. Please review these with your child several times. Then review pages 68 and 69 on how to receive reconciliation.
- FG pg 36 – Step 4 Use the guide to help lead your family through the prayers to end your session together. Start by reading “Joy to Share”. Reread the story on pgs 42 and 43 placing yourself (child) in the place of the son – uses the comments in purple for help.
- CB pgs 50 – read together to review what you learned together in this chapter.
- FG pg 37 – read and consider activities you might like to do with your child during the week to reinforce the lesson.
- **Have your child complete hand out H – make sure your child’s name is on it**

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Chapter 6 – God is Always With Us

Lesson Plan

Before hand: Read pages 38 through 43 of the Family Guide (FG) as preparation.

With your child:

- Review Chapter 5 by rereading pages CB 44, 45, 46 ,47 and pages 66, 67, 68, 69 and by going over CB pg 50
- FG pg 41 Step 1 - 3 Minute Retreat celebrate as a family
- CB Pg 51 – introduce the chapter, Ask the child to explain the rules of the game hide and seek, why is this a fun game. What does it feel like to be really lost and then found? Pray the prayer on the page
- FG pg 41 Step 2 - using the guide lead your child through the story on CB pgs 52 and 53, use the stickers in the back of the book for this chapter. Additional questions to ask are: 1) How is God like the shepherd in the story? (He never stops looking for us and wanting to be with us no matter what we do etc) 2) How are we like the sheep? (We sometimes make bad choices and leave God and get lost)
- FG pg 42 Step 3 – using the guide lead you child though CB pgs 54 and 56. The words in **BOLD** print are found in the glossary starting on pg 77 (please stop and visit the glossary and read the meaning of the words to your child).
- CB pg 55. Have your complete the maze and help the lost sheep find their way back to their flock.
- CB pg 57 – please complete the activity with your child by using the parish bulletin that you can pick up on your way out of Mass
- FG pg 58 – Step 4 Use the guide to help lead your family through the prayers to end your session together. Start by reading “All the Grace we Need”.
- CB pgs 60 – read together to review what you learned together in this chapter.
- FG pg 43 – read and consider activities you might like to do with your child during the week to reinforce the lesson.
- **Have your child complete hand out P – make sure your child’s name is on it**