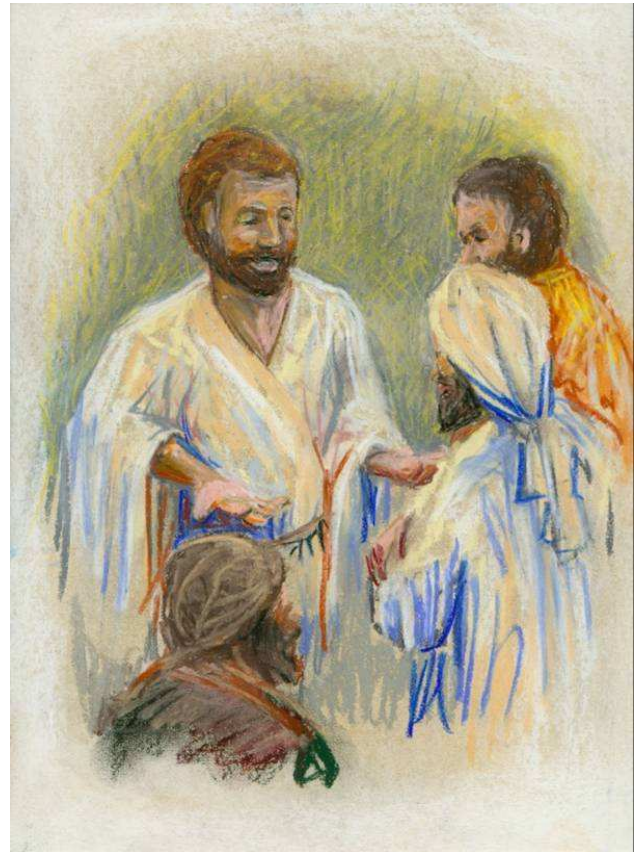


2

I Grow Closer to Jesus

Growing Up Catholic means living as a Friend of Jesus.

- Jesus loves you very much
- He gave his life for you!
- He calls you to be his Friend



Who are the Friends of Jesus?

- You are!
- You have been chosen by Jesus as a friend!
- When you have a friend, you spend time together
- Friends of Jesus talk with him every day
- In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you learn to know Jesus as your Friend
- You are in the process of **growing up Catholic**
God chose YOU!



Prayer Celebration: Growing up Catholic makes you a Friend of Jesus

Begin with the Sign of the Cross. Everyone say it aloud together.

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

Leader: Jesus, we thank you for loving us.

All: Please help us to love others in the same way.

Leader: Jesus, please come to live in our homes with us.

All: We welcome you as our guest.

Leader: Jesus, help us listen to your words from the Bible.

Reader: Please listen now to God's Word from the Bible: (John 14:21)

A reading from the Gospel of John...

...The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Listen to the Leader.

All: (pause after each line)

Jesus, thank you for being our friend,
and for giving your life for us.

Thank you for giving us the love
which we have for each other.

Help us learn how to be a better friend
and how to celebrate this Sacrament.

Amen.



What is the Bible?

- ✚ The Bible is a very holy book.
- ✚ The Bible tells the story of how God loves us
- ✚ And about what God wants us to do as Friends of Jesus.



God gave us Rules of Love to help us know what to do to be good, to choose love, and to avoid sin.

The Church helps us understand these Rules of Love.

From the list below, write the ones that are in the Bible:

Obey your parents

How to fix a car

Keep Sunday holy

How to play a game

Never tell a lie

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is a special helper sent by Jesus to help you stay close to him. The Holy Spirit helps you be sorry when you do things that are wrong.

It is **the Spirit of God within you!**





Meeting Jesus in the Bible

Jesus helps us choose right from wrong. The Holy Spirit is our helper. We learn how to make good choices.

The Man with Two Sons

Then Jesus told everyone a story.

A man had two sons.

He went to one of them and said, “Come and help me.”

But his son said “No,
I will not help.”

Then later this son changed his mind
and showed up to help his dad.

Then the father went to his other son
and also asked him to help him.

This son said “Yes, I will help!”

But then he never did show up.

“Which son did what his father
wanted?” Jesus asked.

The people answered, “The first one
even though he said no, eventually
he did go.”

Jesus said, “That’s right.

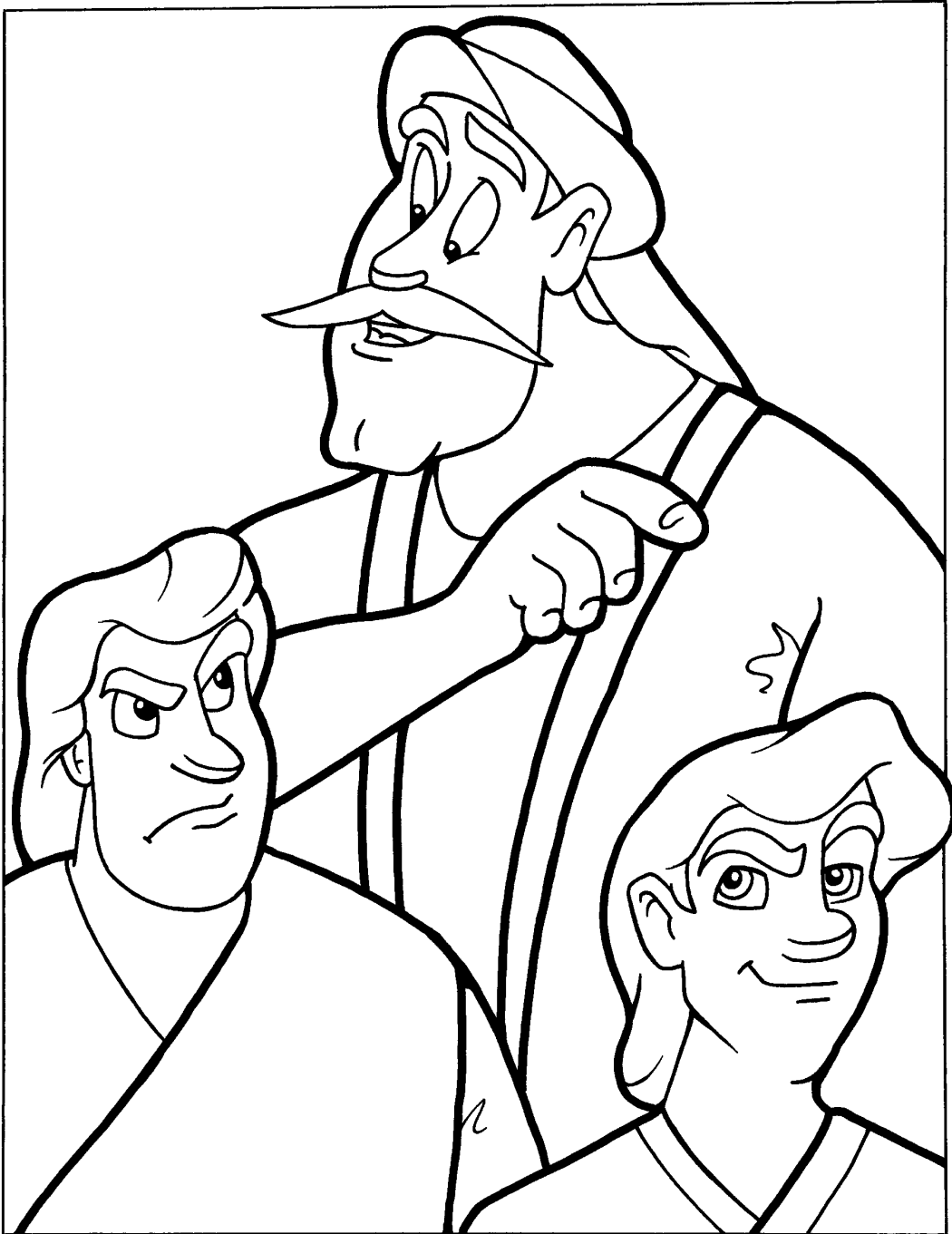
People who commit bad sins will go to heaven
if they are sorry for them.

But a lot of people say they will have faith,
but then they never do. Don’t be like them!”

(Based on Matthew 21:28-32)



Color this picture together...



Then complete the questions below to learn how to make good choices in your life.

Making Good Choices

Growing up Catholic means learning to know when you commit a sin.

An accident: an action not done on purpose. Accidents are not sins.

A choice to sin: an action done on purpose, or the failure to love done on purpose. If you know it's wrong and you do it anyway, it's a sin.

Is each of these a choice or an accident?

Write an "A" on the line if the action was an accident. Write an "S" on the line if it was a sin.

Your mom asks you to clean your room but you decide to watch TV instead.

.....

OR

Your mom asks you to clean your room but your school bus comes and you can't do it right now.

.....

You drop your sister's favorite toy and it breaks.

.....

OR

You are angry with your sister, so you break her favorite toy.

.....

Your dad asks where your homework is but you didn't do it so you lie and say you don't know.

.....

OR

Your dad asks where your homework is but you forgot where you put it and tell him that.

.....

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Also called **Confession** or **Penance**
The Reading from the Bible

After the priest welcomes you, what is the next thing that happens?

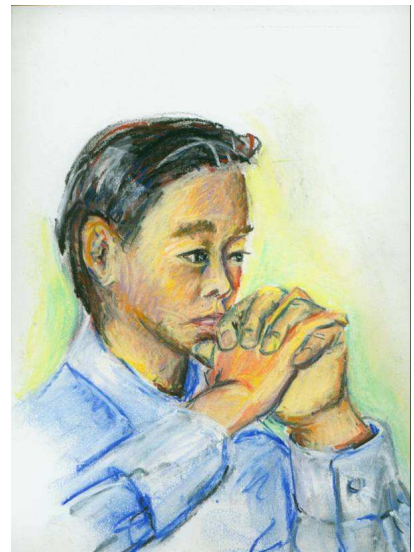


- There is often a reading from the Bible.
- This reading is about God's mercy.
- You listen quietly and say a little prayer in your heart.

You get ready to make your Confession

How do you prepare your heart for this moment?

- You spend time in quiet **prayer**, thinking about ways that you have sinned
- You ask God to help you be **honest and humble**.
- You trust the priest to help you.



Complete the words of this prayer.

Pray them as you get ready for your first celebration of Reconciliation.

Dear Jesus,

My name is _____.

I am from the parish of _____

_____. I love you

very much. Help me be _____

as I get ready to go to _____

for the very first time. I want to be

_____ about my sins and tell

them all to the Priest. Thank you for

_____ me and _____

me. Love, _____



At home this week

Work on this together at home as a way of continuing the process of preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Use the following chart to read passages from the Bible that will help you prepare to make a good Confession.

For the child to read	For the parent to read	Write one or two words that you noticed in this reading
<p>Matthew 6:14 For if you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.</p>	<p>Matthew 6:15 But if you do not forgive them, neither will your Father forgive your sins.</p>	
<p>Luke 6:32 If you love only those who love you, how does that make you good?</p>	<p>Luke 6:35 Love your enemies... your reward will be great</p>	
<p>James 2:14 What good is it if you say you have faith but you don't live that way?</p>	<p>James 2:17 It isn't enough to say you believe if you don't act that way.</p>	
<p>1 Peter 3:8 Have unity of spirit among you.</p>	<p>1 Peter 3:8 Love one another with a tender heart and a humble mind.</p>	
<p>1 John 2:10 Whoever loves another lives in the light of God.</p>	<p>1 John 2:11 Whoever hates another, lives in darkness.</p>	
<p>1 John 3:18 Little children, let us love, not in word alone, but in truth and action!</p>	<p>1 John 3:23 This is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of Jesus and love one another.</p>	