

# 6 Reconciliation: Let's Celebrate!



## This is a party!

- What happens at a party?
- Who likes a party?
- Why do we have parties?

### It's a Celebration!

- We **celebrate** when we're happy about something
- Or when it's **a special day**
- In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we are happy because we feel good after we confess our sins
- Jesus makes us **free!**
- It's time for **a party!**

**God loves us! We celebrate!**

Parent lesson plans for page one of the 6<sup>th</sup> lesson.

Follow the numbers.

1 Ask your child to list all the **parties and holidays** that he or she likes best.

Why does he or she like parties? They might say things like:


- Everyone is happy
- Something special is going on
- We get gifts
- We have special meals

2 Make sure your child **understands** each word on this page. Explain that the Church family also celebrates special times. One of those times is when we confess our sins and accept God's forgiveness into our lives.

3 Take the time now to **plan a small party** for your child for after he or she celebrates Reconciliation. Ask your child to help plan. You may wish to join with other families for this. Include these things:

- Who should be invited to the party?
- Where should we hold it?
- When will it be?
- What food should we have?
- Should there be presents? (Duh!)

Session 6: First Reconciliation Child Text Growing Up Catholic



**Prayer Celebration:  
Growing up Catholic means  
Celebrating with the Church!**

*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:* Thank you, Jesus, for helping us live as your children.


*All:* And thank you for making us free through Reconciliation.

*Reader:* ~~Reconciliation now to God's Word from the Bible: (1 Corinthians 2:9)~~  
 A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians  
 ... The Word of the Lord  
*All:* Thanks be to God!

*Listen to the Leader.*

Let us now pray together this prayer, thinking about each word:  
*(Pause after each line)*

*All:* I confess to almighty God  
 And to you, my brothers and sisters,  
 That I have greatly sinned,  
 In my thoughts and in my words  
 In what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
 Through my fault, through my fault,  
 Through my most grievous fault;  
 Therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
 All the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters  
 To pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen.



*Leader:* May God bless us for our work today. Amen.

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Parent lesson plans for page two of the 6<sup>th</sup> lesson.  
 Follow the numbers.

1 **Pray** this with your child, helping them find their way through it as the leader guides you.

When the time comes, help your child write **an invitation to Jesus** to come into his or her heart. Use the form below for that purpose. The words are: heart, friend, confession, sin, your child's name as a signature.

Help your child pray the closing prayer.


Dear Jesus,  
 I invite you to come into my \_\_\_\_\_ because I  
 love you and want to be your \_\_\_\_\_. Help  
 me to make a good \_\_\_\_\_. Help me  
 to change my life and \_\_\_\_\_ no more.

Thank you for loving me, \_\_\_\_\_

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### What is a Sacrament?

- > It's something we can see, hear, taste, feel or smell.
- > It comes to us from Jesus
- > It helps us be strong and helps us know Jesus.
- > It is a sign of God's love for us.



**Baptism**

- > We **feel** the water when we are put into it or when it is poured over us
- > We **hear** the words of the Priest or Deacon: I baptize you in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- > We **see** the candle – a sign of Jesus being there.

### What are the signs of Reconciliation?

Use the letters to complete the word.

- > We **tell** the priest our sins when we
- > **N S E**


C O  F  S

- > We **hear** the words when the priest gives us
- > **O B O T**

A  S  U  I  N

- > We **see** the Priest make the Sign of the
- > **S O R**

C   S



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Parent lesson plans for page three of the 6<sup>th</sup> lesson.  
Follow the numbers.

1 Help your child understand that when he or she goes to Confession, which is the same as celebrating Reconciliation, they will be taking part in a **sacrament**.

2 Ask your child to tell what signs there are that **Christmas** is coming each year. They might include:

- > you get a tree
- > Christmas songs are on the radio
- > there is an Advent wreath in Church
- > the weather turns colder

3 Ask them to tell what signs there are **that you love them**. The signs point to something that your child can't actually see, but which is **still very real**. Some of the signs might be:


- > you take care of all their needs
- > you hug them
- > you listen to them when they are sad
- > you work hard to support them as your family

4 Sacraments all have **special signs** – helping us move to what we cannot see from what we can see, hear, & touch. Explain that in Baptism, there were certain signs (which are listed here).

5 Then help them understand the outward signs of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The three words you need here are: Confess, Absolution, Cross.

6 **The 7 Sacraments** are: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing, Matrimony, & Ordination. Each has special signs but for today, we are only concerned about these two sacraments.

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**Meeting Jesus in the Bible**  
 At baptism we become friends with Jesus, who is our friend first. He chooses us because he loves us very much.

**A Man Who Wanted to See Jesus**

There was a huge crowd, and everyone was trying to see Jesus.


So a local rich man (named **Zacchaeus**) who collected people's taxes climbed up into a **tree** to see better.

He was very **short**!

When **Jesus** came along, he saw him up there and called to him. "Come down. I want to have supper with you tonight." Zacchaeus came down and received Jesus **joyfully**.

But the people grumbled. He's a thief, they said. Why does Jesus choose him?

But Zacchaeus said otherwise. "I don't steal," he said. "And I give half of my income to the poor." "If I have robbed anyone, I **restore** it to them." Jesus knew his heart and said, "You are really a good person. **Salvation** has come to your house today! I have come to save the **lost**!" Then they had a big party!



(Based on Luke 19:1-10)

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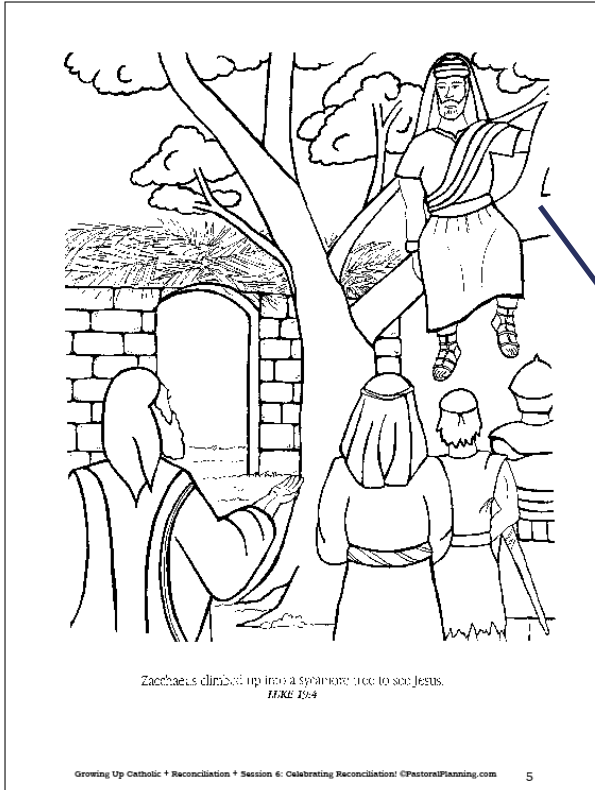
Parent lesson plans for page four of the 6<sup>th</sup> lesson.  
 Follow the numbers.

- 1 Begin by showing your child the **Bible** again. Open it to show them this passage.
- 2 Tell them that we are going to read this story in words that we understand better.
- 3 Then close the Bible and ask them to read this passage aloud. Help them when needed.

4 Make sure your child **understands each word** in this passage. The name Zacchaeus may be difficult for your child. It is pronounced: zah-kay-us. Help them say it aloud. Ask your child to re-tell this story in his or her own words. This is an excellent way to teach children the meaning of the stories in the Bible.

5 Explain the **key ideas** of this story to your child:

- ✚ Even though Zacchaeus was a sinner, Jesus wanted to be his friend.
- ✚ Zacchaeus showed he was sorry for his sins by showing that he was trying to be better.
- ✚ God through Jesus had already forgiven Zacchaeus and knew his heart.
- ✚ Jesus went to a party – **a celebration** – at Zacchaeus' house!



Parent lesson plans for pages 5 & 6 of the 6<sup>th</sup> lesson.  
Follow the numbers.

1 Time for a break! Help your child **enjoy** t□□□□□□r□□□□ and color this image of the Bible story.

Coloring time is a good time to be close to your child without necessarily talking about faith.

Don't be afraid to **put your arm around your child** during this time.

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**Complete this puzzle.**  
Hint: The words are in the Bible Story in **BOLD**.

**Down**

1 There was a man named \_\_\_\_ who was a tax collector.  
3 He wanted to see Jesus, but he was very \_\_\_\_\_.  
6 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore \_\_\_\_\_.  
4 And when \_\_\_\_ got there, he looked up and saw him, and said to him, 'Come down. I want to have supper with you tonight.'  
2 So he hurried and came down, and received Jesus \_\_\_\_.

**Across**

5 Then Zacchaeus said to Jesus, 'I don't steal. And I give half of my income to the poor; and if I have robbed anyone, I \_\_\_\_ it to them.'  
3 Jesus said to him, '\_\_\_\_ has come to your house today.'  
7 'For I have come to seek and to save that which was \_\_\_\_.'

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2 Now help your child fill in **this puzzle**. For some second grade students, this will be slightly above their abilities, but with your help, they will grow!

3 The words you need for this puzzle are all highlighted in the Scripture passage on page 4 of this lesson.

Here they are in order: Down: Zacchaeus, short, tree, Jesus, joyfully. Across: restore, salvation, lost.


4 Explain that Zacchaeus **restored** to others what he stole because that is what we are called to do.


Parent lesson plans for pages 7 & 8 of the 6<sup>th</sup> lesson.


Follow the numbers.

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**Review the Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
Number the steps of Reconciliation in the correct order.  
Put the correct number in each box.


 We go in Peace




 2


There is a reading from the Bible

 We accept the Penance and make a good Act of Contrition



The Priest gives us Absolution for our sins

 We confess our sins to the Priest

The Priest gives us advice and asks us to do a Penance  4

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1 This is the final review of the steps for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Help your child put these steps into **the correct order**. We have given two clues: step #2 and #4. There are seven steps altogether. Here is the correct order:

1. The welcome
2. Bible reading
3. Confess sins
4. Advice from the priest & a Penance
5. Act of Contrition
6. Absolution
7. Go in peace

2 The best way to prepare your child in these final days before the Sacrament is to **role play the steps** with them. You play the role of the priest and ask your child to do the rest. Use the lesson pages from each session to help you.

3 **At home this week**, work with your child to help them write an invitation to have Jesus come to visit your house. Of course, Jesus does visit your house every week.

Session 6: First Reconciliation Child Text Growing Up Catholic



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

**Invite Jesus to visit your house**

What two things would you do to get ready for him?

1

2

What would you change in your house?

1

Tell Jesus why you want him to come to your house:

*Dear Jesus,  
Please come to our house because*

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