

Sacrament of Reconciliation Retreat

SCHEDULE FOR RETREAT

Start of Retreat	Opening Remarks and Gathering Prayer Pray the Lord's Prayer in the child's book on page 89, Hail Mary on page 90 and Glory Be on page 90.
0.05	Activity Period 1 – 20 minutes
0.25	Activity Period 2 – 20 minutes
0.45	Preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation Prayer: Pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit on page 84 of the Child's Book. Silent Prayer: Ask the children to quietly review the Examination of Conscience on page 84 and the Act of Contrition on page 92. Individual celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
Conclusion	Closing Prayer – Act of Hope on page 92.

RETREAT ACTIVITIES

INSTRUCTIONS

Choose from these four suggested activities for Activity Period 1 and Activity Period 2. These four activities take about 20 minutes each. Choose two activities and run them consecutively for a small group of children or divide the group into four and run two sessions noting that each child will have the opportunity to participate in two retreat activities.

To add the First Reconciliation Retreat to Session 4 of the First Reconciliation parish-based sacramental preparation program, schedule only one Activity Period of 20 minutes and choose one of the following four activities.

Activity #1: The Lost Sheep

Scripture Reading: The Lost Sheep~ Luke 15: 1-7

Read the passage cited above from a Children's Bible.

Sheep are placed/hidden around the room (this could be stuffies or pictures)

Shepherds (students!) are sent to look for the lost sheep

Come back together for discussion once all sheep have been found

Questions for discussion:

- 1) How many sheep did the man in the story own?
- 2) How many were lost?
- 3) What did the man do about the lost sheep?
- 4) What did he do when he found it?
- 5) What does it mean to repent?
- 6) Who does God want to be in heaven?
- 7) Pretend you are a sheep. Is God out looking for you or has He already found you?
- 8) What does it feel like when you've lost something then find it?
- 9) Imagine how God feels when we are lost and we ask for forgiveness and we come back to God.

Invite students to decorate their lamb with pictures of a time where they were forgiven... or what they think it looks like and use the sheep as decorations for Mass

Key Concepts:

- Jesus told a story about a man who had 100 Sheep
- One day, the man lost one of his sheep.
- Even though he still had plenty of other sheep, the man would not stop searching until he had found the one that was lost.
- Jesus told his story to help people understand how much celebration there is in heaven when one sinner repents.
- To repent means we let God know how deeply sorry we are for sinning.
- God loves the people He created so much that He offers eternal life to anyone who believes in His son, Jesus, and repents their sins.

Lost Sheep Drawing Activity

Have students draw a picture of a time that they said they were sorry for something they had done and they were forgiven. If they can, invite the students to write a short sentence of what the picture is about. When finished the drawing, students can then cut out their sheep.

Activity # 2: ART ACTIVITY:

- There will be two large footprints to represent those of Jesus, placed on a long paper banner so that they will be the 'feet that lead others'. (See Template)
- Scripture Readings: Luke 23.34 and Matthew 5.21-24

- Read the passage cited above from a Children’s Bible.
- Have each child trace and cut out their footprints.
- On each footprint have the children write:
 - What forgiveness means to them; and
 - What forgiveness looks like or an example of forgiveness.
- Place the children’s footprints on the long paper banner following in the footprints of the Lord.
- Encourage the children to illustrate their footprint and sentence.
- These banners can be displayed in the church.

Activity #3: The Prodigal Son

Or Youtube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V96rkM5Gpn0> *(The Parables of Jesus 6: The Prodigal Son)*

- Read the story *The Forgiving Father*, in the child’s book on page 12.
- On page 13 of the Catechist’s Manual, there is an additional activity. Act out the parable of the Forgiving Father.

Activity # 4: Forgiveness Card: Jesus teaches us to Forgive

Read the story *Jesus forgives the sorrowful sinner*, in the child’s book on page 42

Discuss the importance of forgiveness.

- What does the woman in the picture appear to be doing?
- Why was the woman unwelcome at Simon’s house?
- What did the woman do to show her sorrow and love?
- What do we do when we are sorry for something we have done to hurt another person?
- What do we do when other people say they are sorry to us?

Forgiveness Card ACTIVITY

- Invite students to make a forgiveness card.
- Fold a sheet of paper or construction paper in half to make a card.
- On the front, draw a picture of two people forgiving each other.
- They could be hugging or shaking hands
- On the inside of card, write a message asking to be forgiven.
- It could say “I’m sorry. Please forgive me!”
- Use your card when you need to ask someone to forgive you.