



Parish-Based Sacramental Preparation Program

FIRST RECONCILIATION

PARENT SESSION #2

Spirituality and the Church

HAND-OUTS

OPENING PRAYER

† In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Loving Creator, author of life,
we thank you for our special role in family life
and for the gift we share with you
in creating others in your own image and likeness.
Life is so precious and so beautiful,
mingling souls
in so many mysterious and satisfying ways.
May our human love and friendship
reflect your own divine love.
May we and our children be committed
to being fully alive to your call and challenge,
ever growing in discipleship and friendship with Jesus,
who alone is the way, the truth, and the life.
May we praise you always.
May we, without seeming to preach,
teach you to our children and to others,
not so much by our words as by our example.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Amen.

FIVE KEY POINTS

1. The Church is a community of people joined together for the common purpose of sharing Christ's redemptive love.



2. The gospel of John has Jesus presenting an image of the Church community as a vine: Jn. 15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ... I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."



3. The Church helps us to live out Jesus' vision of unity, harmony and mission by inviting us to love God more deeply and to serve Him.



4. Some people seek to live out a spirituality which is independent of a Church community to guide and challenge them.



5. The Church in its wholeness and brokenness is Jesus' gift with these components:
 - a. Community – Body of Christ, People of God
 - b. Institution – Organized hierarchy
 - c. Sacrament – Visible sign of unity
 - d. Herald – Announce the Good News
 - e. Servant – Helper, Healer, Reconciler

Institution	Hierarchy, rules, doctrines	order., identity. clarity
Community	Focuses on people	Fellowship
Sacrament	As a sign, highly intellectual	Sacramental spirituality
Herald	Proclaims the word, focus on preaching of Scripture	Biblical basis
Servant	Work to transform the world for justice and peace	Service and care for others

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe the spirituality, spiritual tradition and/or spiritual practice of the Church?
2. Why do you think some adults might seek to live their spiritual quest outside of the Church community?
3. What component or components best describe your experience with the Church? Explain.
4. What are your hopes for the Church community in the next 1 to 3 years?
5. How do you see yourself helping in some way to work towards realizing these hopes?

HOME ACTIVITY

In today's session, your child will experience praying with Scripture; learn the Scripture story about the Ten Commandments; learn God's rules from the Bible; learn that Jesus came to help us to follow God's rules; understand mortal and venial sin; learn that the Sacrament of Reconciliation can help us to follow God's rules; understand the importance of keeping God's commandments; pray for help in following the Word of God; pray a prayer about being sorry and returning to God; learn the Scripture story about John the Baptist and the Baptism of Jesus; understand what it means to repent; explain how the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a Sacrament of conversion; make an examination of conscience; learn ways the Holy Spirit helps us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; and pray a prayer a praise and petition to God.

Student Text – pages 24 and 25 – God gave us rules out of love. The scriptures guide us in our faith practice.

Page 29 – Activity in Student Text about the place of rules in our lives as reflected in the Old Testament

Page 30 – We Pray to Follow God's Word

Review this prayer with your child recognizing that God reveals Himself in the Word and that Scripture guide us in living out our faith.

Page 32 – Prepare for the Lord! (Story of John the Baptist and the Baptism of our Lord, Jesus) Talk with your child about preparing the way for the Lord and how our good works can inspire others to walk in Jesus' footsteps.

Page 34 and 35 – We ask for God's forgiveness
These two pages draw out themes from the mission of John the Baptist – repentance, confession, penance and conversion

Page 38 – The Courage of the Holy Spirit; activity on page 39
Talk with your child about the role of the Holy Spirit as a helper to us. We pray to the Holy Spirit asking for the grace and wisdom to make good choices in our lives.

Page 39 reviews 5 words – this will be reviewed at the December session.

Resource pages for Families – student text – pages 81 to 93

HOMEWORK FOR DECEMBER

The scripture passages and the activities are all very important to help your child understand the concepts in this chapter. It is more than a vocabulary exercise – it is a living story rooted in the Gospel. Spend time reading God’s word with your child. (p. 32)

The themes from the mission of John the Baptist – repentance, confession, penance and conversion; and examination of conscience (p. 84) – will be reviewed at the December session.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you plan to approach the home activities with your child?
2. Do you have any questions about the home activity assignments?
3. Which home activity topics do you anticipate will be easily understood by your child?
4. Which home activity topics do you think may pose a challenge for your child? How will you talk about these topics with your child?
5. Are you clear on the home activity which will be reviewed at the child's next session of sacramental preparation?

EXIT CARD

In what ways did this session help you in your faith and your role as a parent supporting your child's faith journey?

For next time, what would you like to see included in the session to address your questions of faith and help you in your child's faith journey preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

Are there other things we need to know to assist you, your child and family?

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CLOSING PRAYER

† In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Our Father, Who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against
us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.