

Chapter
18

Healing and Reconciliation



Let Us Pray

Leader: Merciful God, be always with us as we pray.

“Remember your compassion and love,

O LORD;

for they are ages old.”

Psalm 25:6

All: Merciful God, be always with us as we pray. Amen.

Activity

Let's Begin

● **Forgiveness** Complete these sentences.

• Forgiveness is easy when . . . _____

• Forgiveness is difficult when . . . _____

• I can always forgive . . . _____

Now think about times when you have forgiven someone or been forgiven by someone.

• When I forgive, I . . . _____

• When I am forgiven, I . . . _____



Write About Forgiveness Write a story

about a time when you forgave someone, or when someone forgave you.

God's Forgiveness



Focus Who is forgiven?

Jesus showed God's forgiveness to others through his words and actions. In this story, Jesus meets a wealthy tax collector who decides to become his follower.



SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:1-10

The Story of Zacchaeus

One day Jesus was passing through the town of Jericho. Zacchaeus, a rich tax collector, wanted to see Jesus and learn about him. Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree to see past the crowd.

Jesus noticed Zacchaeus in the tree. He said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." Zacchaeus came down happily.

The crowd complained, saying that Jesus should not stay with Zacchaeus because Zacchaeus was a sinner.

Zacchaeus told Jesus that he would give money to those who were poor. He offered to give anyone he had cheated four times the amount of money that he owed to that person.

"Today salvation has come to this house," said Jesus. "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."

Based on Luke 19:1-10

? Who has taught you the most about forgiveness? What did the person or persons say or do?

Turn to God

God is always ready and waiting to forgive. When you decide to turn away from sin and turn back toward God, you are experiencing conversion. God welcomes you back, just as Jesus welcomed Zacchaeus.

During his life Jesus forgave many people in his Father's name. After his Resurrection, Jesus told his disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit, who would give them the power to forgive sins. Today the Church continues to celebrate God's forgiveness in the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. Sometimes this is called Penance or Confession. In this Sacrament, you receive God's forgiveness of sins through the Church. The grace of this Sacrament strengthens you to make peace with those whom you may have hurt.

Words of Faith

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** celebrates God's mercy and forgiveness and a sinner's reconciliation with God and with the Church through the absolution of the priest.

Activity

Share Your Faith

Reflect: Think of someone who has forgiven you.
Why did you need forgiveness?

Share: In groups discuss ways to show you are sorry
and make peace with others.

Act: List two ways that you can be more forgiving
of others.



The Sacraments of Healing



Focus

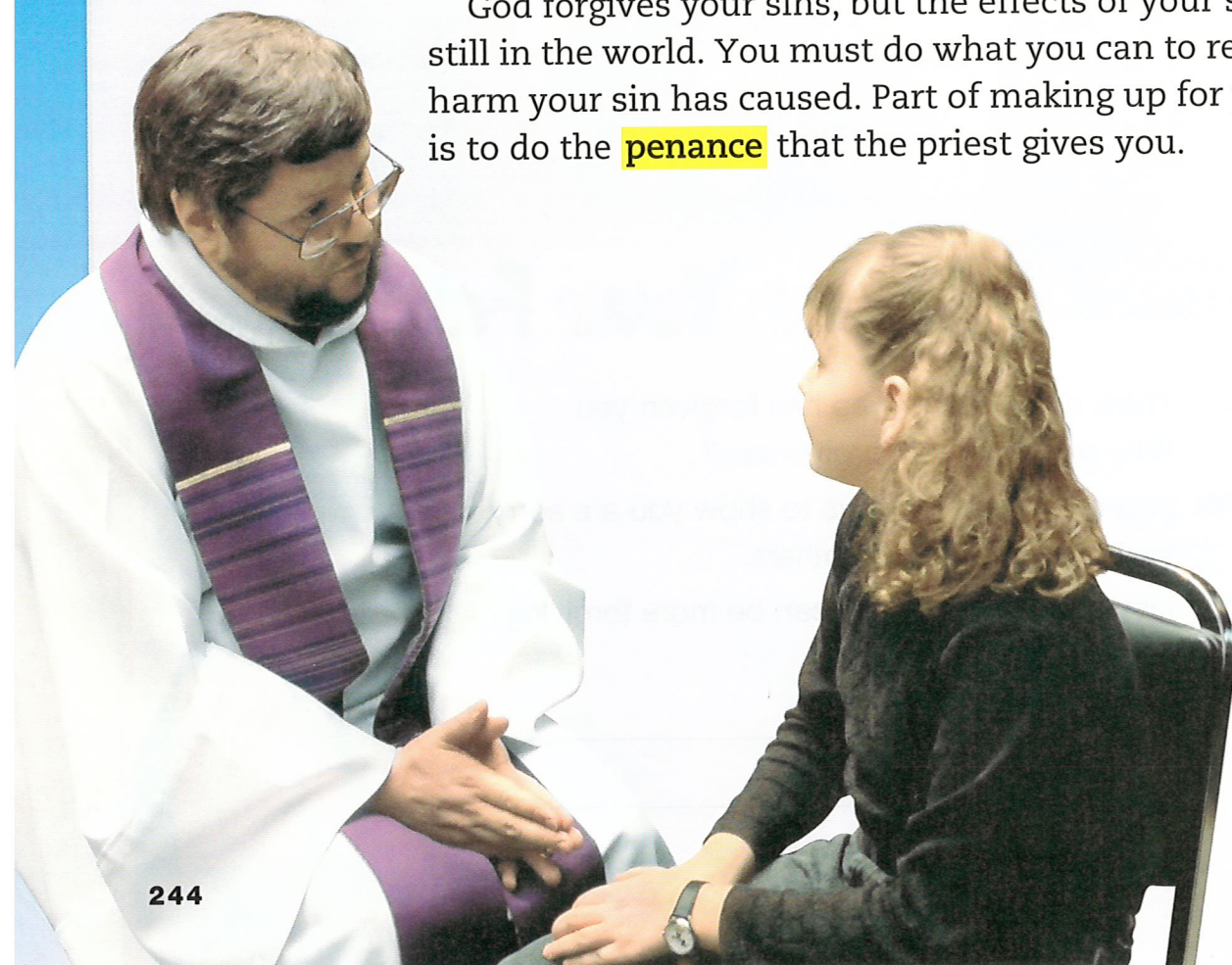
How does the Church celebrate forgiveness and healing?

Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a public sign that you are willing to turn away from sin and toward the love of God and the community. When you confess your sins to a priest, you ask for God's forgiveness through the power the Holy Spirit gives to the Church. God will forgive all sins, even mortal sins, if you are truly sorry and want to change your heart. When the priest says the words of **absolution**, you know that God has taken your sins away.

? Why is it important to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

Repairing the Harm

God forgives your sins, but the effects of your sins are still in the world. You must do what you can to repair the harm your sin has caused. Part of making up for your sin is to do the **penance** that the priest gives you.



God's Healing Love

Today the Church anoints the sick or dying through the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick**. This Sacrament strengthens those who celebrate it and reminds them of God's healing love. God's love and forgiveness are available to all who turn to him.

In Jesus' time, people thought that sickness was God's punishment for someone's sin. But Jesus taught a different message.



SCRIPTURE

John 9:1–38

The Man Born Blind

One day Jesus saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Why is this man blind? Is it because of his own sin or that of his parents?"

Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made more visible through him."

Jesus rubbed clay on the man's eyes and told him to go to a certain place and wash it off. When the man did, he could see!

Many did not believe that Jesus had done this. When the man came back, Jesus asked the man, "Do you believe in the Son of Man? . . . You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he."

The man answered, "I do believe, Lord."

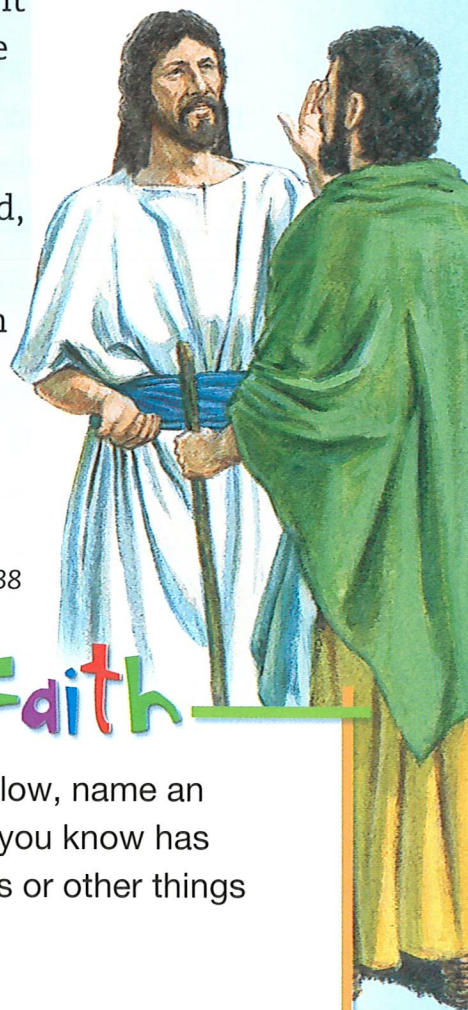
Based on John 9:1–38

Words of Faith

Words of **absolution** are spoken by the priest during the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Penance is the name for the prayer, offering, or good works the priest gives you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** brings Jesus' healing touch to strengthen, comfort, and forgive the sins of those who are seriously ill or close to death.



Activity

Connect Your Faith



Think About Healing In the space below, name an illness that you've had or that someone you know has had. Then add the people and medicines or other things God has provided for healing.

Prepare for Reconciliation



Focus

How can you prepare to receive God's forgiveness?

You may feel uncomfortable about telling your sins to a priest. Remember that the priest is not there to scare or punish you. He is acting as a servant of God. He will know your sorrow and grant you God's forgiveness.

Are you wondering how you will know what to say? Here are some suggestions to help you prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Before You Go

Examine your conscience

Try to remember as best you can the sins you have committed. Look at the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the laws of the Church. Ask yourself whether you have followed these laws and guides.

Pray to the Holy Spirit

Ask for guidance in discovering your weaknesses.

Select a Scripture passage

Choose one that inspires you to turn away from sin and make a fresh start.

Make up your mind to do penance

This is a way of healing any hurts or harm you may have caused through your sins.

Show your sorrow

Pray the Act of Contrition.

Decide to avoid sin

Resolve that with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, you will resist temptation and do better.

? How do you feel after you celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation?



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Title: _____

Characters: _____, _____

Plot: _____

Prayer for Peace



Let Us Pray

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Reader 1: Merciful Father, we are together on earth, alone in the universe.

All: Grant us peace, Lord.

Reader 2: Look at us and help us love one another. Teach us to understand one another, just as you understand us.

All: Grant us peace, Lord.

Reader 3: Make our souls as fresh as the morning. Make our hearts as innocent as a baby's.

All: Grant us peace, Lord.

Reader 4: May we forgive one another and forget the past. And may we have peace within—and in our world today and forever.

All: Grant us peace, Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.
*Bow your heads as
the leader prays.*

All: Amen.



Sing together.

Go now in peace.
Go now in peace.
May the love of God
surround you ev'rywhere,
ev'rywhere you may go.

"Go Now in Peace" ©1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.



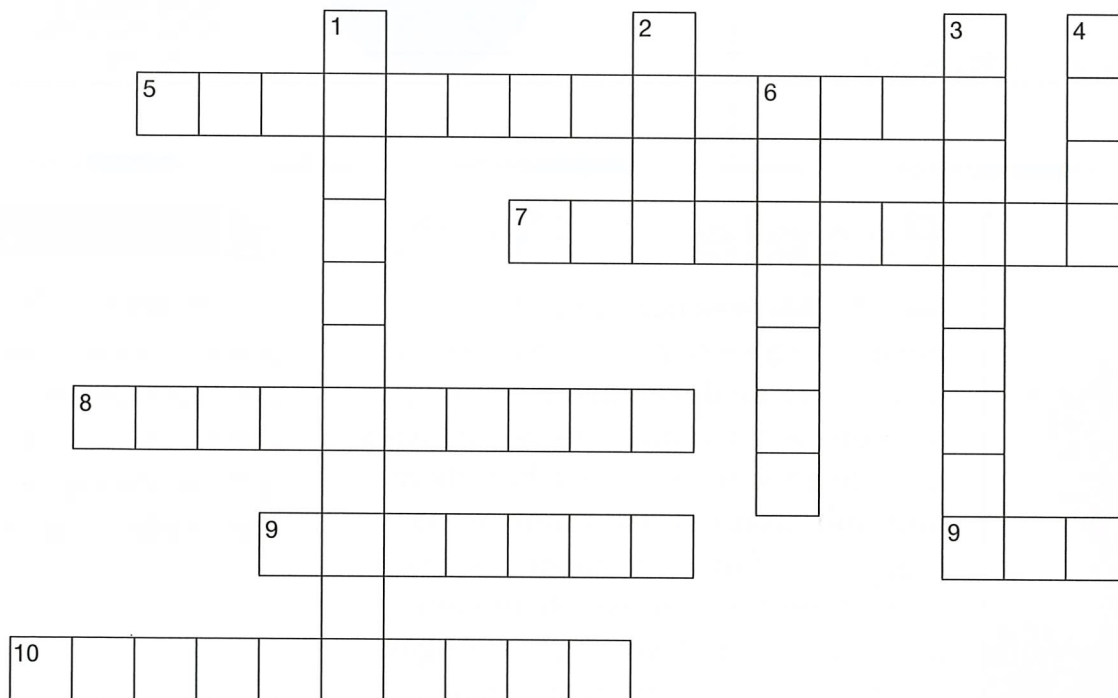
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Check Understanding Solve the crossword puzzle.**Down**

1. welcoming someone back after a wrong has been done
2. These separate you from God and others.
3. This is done for those who are very sick or dying.
4. God's love is available to all who _____ to him.
6. When you tell the priest your sins, you are really _____ to God.

Across

5. the Sacrament that celebrates God's forgiveness of sins
7. When the priest gives this, you know that God has taken your sins away.
8. deciding to turn away from sin and turn back to God
9. This helps you make up for your sins.
10. another name for Reconciliation





Family Faith

Catholics Believe

- God's forgiveness is offered to all who seek it.
- The Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick celebrate God's healing love.



SCRIPTURE

Read *Matthew 18:21–35* to learn from Jesus how we should forgive.

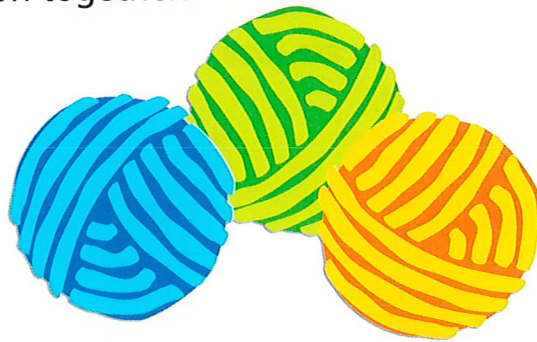


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Activity

Live Your Faith

Play the Yarn Game Gather your family in a circle with a ball of yarn. Hold the end of the yarn in one hand and the ball in the other. Hold your end of the yarn and toss the ball to another person. Tell that person you are sorry for something that you did to him or her. Then that person repeats the action with someone else. Repeat the process until you weave a web of forgiveness with the yarn. Pray the Act of Contrition together.



People of Faith

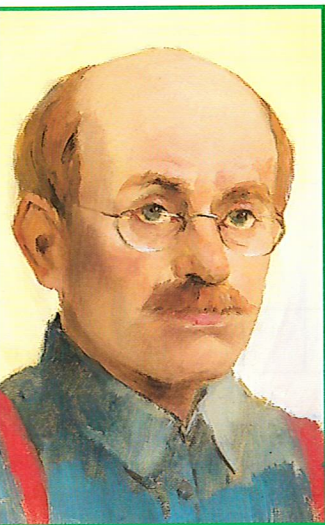
Matt Talbot was born in Dublin, Ireland, to a family that was poor. As he grew up he developed a drinking problem. After years of heavy drinking, Matt decided to become sober. He had hurt and disappointed many of his friends and family members, but he asked their forgiveness. He prayed and practiced self-sacrifice. Matt gave most of his lumberyard wages to people who were poor or hungry. He made a better life for himself and many other people.



Family Prayer

O God, give us the grace to overcome our shortcomings, and teach us to be self-sacrificing, as Matt Talbot was. Amen.

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▲ Venerable
Matt Talbot
1856–1925

In Unit 6 your child is learning about SACRAMENTS.