

# Welcome to Reconciliation Preparation!



Today, you'll begin a huge step in your faith life journey. You'll begin preparing to receive Reconciliation!

Not familiar with the word Reconciliation? It's a sacrament that's sometimes called Confession or Penance.



## Let's start with a brainstorm...

Share what you know about sin:

Share what you know about forgiveness:

Sin is when we know something's wrong, but we do it anyway. We know that an action will hurt our relationship with God or with other people. Mistakes or accidents aren't sins - sins are on purpose. Even though people sin, we can be forgiven.

Forgiveness is when you let it go! You "let go" of a hurtful action and choose to move forward. A person who's been forgiven tries their best not to do the same sin again.

Reconciliation is a sacrament where we as Catholics believe God forgives our sins. Our priest helps us receive Reconciliation.

We can forgive others. Other people can forgive us. Catholics believe that if we're truly sorry for our sins, God will forgive us as well.



## What happens during Reconciliation?

We confess - talk about - our sins to our priest in a private conversation.

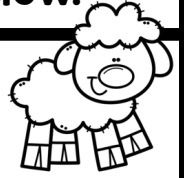
Our priest listens to us talk. He gives us advice or asks us to say prayers. The prayers or advice are called penance.

We pray a special prayer. It's called The Act of Contrition or The Prayer of the Penitent.

Our priest says a special prayer that helps absolve - take away - our sins.

## Read the story based on John 10:2-18 and Luke 15:3-7 below.

One day, Jesus told a group of people a story about a shepherd.



The shepherd goes to his sheep. He calls them by their names, and his sheep know his voice. The sheep follow the shepherd as he walks. They know the shepherd, so they'll follow him, but not a stranger. The shepherd will lay down his life for his sheep. He will protect them from danger. The shepherd takes care of his own sheep, and any other sheep that join his flock.

Jesus told another group of people a different story about sheep.

A shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them becomes lost. The shepherd leaves the other 99 sheep to look for the one that is lost. When the shepherd finds his lost sheep, he brings the sheep back to the flock and celebrates its return.



These stories aren't literally about sheep. They're parables, which are stories to help us learn something.



**The shepherd represents...**

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**The sheep represent...**

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Even though sin can hurt our relationship with God or other people, we believe God does not want us to stay lost. That's why we can ask for God's forgiveness when we sin. We might lose our way when we sin, but forgiveness is a gift that helps us find our way back to good relationships with God and other people.

### Let's review!

What is sin?

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What is forgiveness?

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What is a sacrament that can help us ask God's forgiveness?

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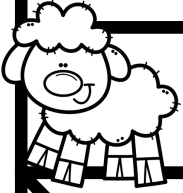


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When we sin, it can sometimes feel like we've lost our way. We can feel like our choices and actions separate us from God and other people. However, Catholics believe that God will forgive us if we're truly sorry for our sins. Even when we feel lost, we can find out way back to God's love!



Read the scenarios below. Help the kids find their way by explaining how you would choose to help fix a situation. You can write or draw your answers.

**Teddy yelled at his friend Juan because their other friend, Cora, told Teddy that Juan laughed at his art project.**

**Brianna called her older sister a mean name because her sister kept bothering her while Brianna watched TV.**

What can Teddy do?

What can David do?

What can Brianna do?

What can Ruby do?

**David's dad asked him to set the table for dinner. David ignored him and kept playing video games, so now David can't play games for a week.**



**Ruby threw a toy at her little brother Martin. She was angry because Martin made a mess in the living room and their mom made Ruby clean it up.**

