



ROMAN CATHOLIC
Diocese of Calgary

Parent Session
First Reconciliation
Sacramental Preparation

SESSION 3
*“Barnacles, Sin and
the Effects of Absolution”*

Hand - Outs



OPENING PRAYER

A PRAYER TO JESUS
by St. Richard of Chichester

*O most merciful Redeemer,
Friend, and Brother,
May I know you more clearly,
Love you more dearly,
And follow you more nearly,
For ever and ever.*

Amen



FOUR KEY POINTS



1) Learn how a priest receives the power to forgive sins.



2) Learn why the priest gives us a penance in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and understand that sorrow for sin includes a resolve not to sin again.



3) Learn how Jesus saves us from sins that cause us disappointment and guilt and bring to light the peace that we experience when we are given absolution.



4) Learn how the priest prays the words of absolution and discover that we are reconciled with God and all his people, the Church.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) In what ways do you think seeking forgiveness can transform bitterness and hatred into peace?

- 2) Do you think most people take responsibility for their behavior, try to make things right and ask for forgiveness – informally and in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?



3) Do you realize that the peace of heart received at Reconciliation goes beyond human understanding? It is a peace that flows from certainty rather than from unsure hope.

4) How do you think seeking or extending forgiveness can change hearts, attitudes, minds and lives?



IN THIS SESSION YOUR CHILD WILL:

- Pray an Act of Contrition
- Learn the Scripture story about the woman who was sorry for her sins Understand the connection between the Scripture story and the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Learn how the priest has the power to forgive sins through the sacrament Learn why the priest gives a penance in the Sacrament of Reconciliation Understand that sorrow for sins involves having the intention not to sin again
- Realize that doing a penance demonstrates our sorrow for hurting God, self and/or others
- Pray the Hail Mary
- Sing the prayer, “Peace is Flowing like a River”
- Learn the scripture story about Zacchaeus
- Learn how Jesus saves us from sins that make us feel guilty or disappointed in ourselves
- Discover the peace of absolution
- Learn how the priest prays the words of absolution; discover that we are reconciled with God, ourselves and others
- Realize that we have to seek and work for peace
- Pray the prayer of St. Richard of Chichester.



FAMILY LEARNING TIME

“The family is the First School, Parents are the First Teachers”.

The Scripture passages and activities are all very important in helping your child understand the concepts in these chapters. Spend time reading God’s Word and sharing this love story with your family. As you support your child along this faith journey, we ask you to:

- **Participate in Sunday Mass with your child**
- Complete the opening pages of your child’s workbook - “All About Me”
- Review Chapters 5 and 6 with your child
- Complete any “Activity” portion that has not been finished
- Work together on all “With My Family” activities
- Help them understand the following:
 - ✓ Jesus gave his church the power to forgive sins in his name
 - ✓ In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are sorry for our sins and pray an Act of Contrition
 - ✓ We do our penance to show we are sorry and to make up for our sins
 - ✓ Jesus wants us to have salvation
 - ✓ In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are given absolution, or forgiveness of our sins
 - ✓ The Sacrament of Reconciliation brings us pardon and peace.



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?



CLOSING PRAYER

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen.*

