



ROMAN CATHOLIC
Diocese of Calgary

Parent Session
First Reconciliation
Sacramental Preparation

SESSION 4
“Faithfulness to the Gift”

Hand - Outs



OPENING PRAYER

*Father in Heaven,
when the Spirit came down upon Jesus
at His baptism
You revealed Him as Your Own Beloved Son.
Keep us, Your children,
born of water and the Spirit,
faithful to our calling.
May we follow in Christ's path of faithfulness,
of service and of sacrifice.
We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.*



FOUR KEY POINTS



1) Understand that Jesus loves us even when we sin and rejoices when we come back to him.



2) Learn more about the gifts of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



3) Understand why Jesus keeps calling us to conversion.



4) Understand why we are called “Easter people” and discover ways we share in the new life of Jesus.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Do we understand that Jesus is our Shepherd and will never stop loving us? How can I assure my child of the unconditional love of God the Father?

- 2) How do we understand the gifts of pardon and peace through Reconciliation – with God, with ourselves, with others?



- 3) Do we understand “conversion”? Do we know how Jesus calls us to follow him each day, one step at a time and that he is by our side always?

- 4) Easter is the most important day of the whole year for Christians. At Easter, we sing “Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!” We are so happy that Jesus is risen and gives us new life, now and forever! Through our baptism, we become Easter people...we were given new life. How can we continue to support our families in living as Easter people?



IN THIS SESSION YOUR CHILD WILL:

- Pray a prayer thanking God for his eternal goodness and mercy
- Learn the Scripture story about the lost sheep
- Understand that Jesus loves us even when we sin and rejoices when we come back to him
- Learn more about and review the gifts of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Learn that the Sacrament ritual ends with Scripture verses that praise and thank God
- Understand that Jesus always love us
- Pray an echo prayer to Jesus the Good Shepherd
- Pray with Jesus' words; learn the Scripture story of Jesus assuring his Apostles of help and peace
- Understand why Jesus keeps calling us to conversion
- To become familiar with the rituals for receiving and celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Understand why we are called an "Easter people"
- Discover ways we share the new life of Jesus
- Learn that Jesus calls us to follow him each day
- Realize that the Sacrament of Reconciliation can help us to follow Jesus more closely
- Pray about being an Easter people.



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 7 and 8 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 is the Good Shepherd
 - ✓ In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are given many gifts
 - ✓ In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, after absolution, we praise and thank God
 - ✓ The Holy Spirit has been sent to us to help us follow Jesus
 - ✓ In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are freed from our sins and we go in peace. Then we do our penance as soon as possible.
 - ✓ We are Easter people – Alleluia!



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,
we are Your people, the sheep of Your flock.
Heal the sheep who are wounded, touch the sheep
who are in pain, clean the sheep who are soiled,
warm the lambs who are cold.
Help us to know the Father's love through Jesus
the Shepherd and through His Holy Spirit.
Help us to lift up that love and
show it all over this land.
Renew us that we may renew the face of the earth.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.*

