



How to Prepare for First Reconciliation:

Share this story with your child; they will hear it on Reconciliation Day.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep Luke 15: 1- 7

The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So to them he addressed this parable. “What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.

Practice the Examination of Conscience so your child will be prepared.

Were there times when I have not loved God as I should?

Were there times I have not prayed or worshipped as I should?

Were there times I have misused God’s name?

Were there times I did not use my God-given abilities to study learn and grow?

Were there times I did not forgive myself for my own mistakes or failures?

Were there times I was dishonest or unfair?

Were there times I refused to share with others, especially those who are weak, sick lonely or poor?

Were there times I refused to forgive others or to live in peace?

Were there times I have failed to appreciate the people in my life as gifts from God?

Were there times I had chances to give, but failed to help others in a generous and loving manner?

Were there times I forgot to thank God for all I have been given?

Memorize the Our Father. We do expect the children to know this by heart, since it is such an integral part of our faith.

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

Review the steps of how to confess with your child:

- Sit down opposite the Priest
- Make the sign of the cross and say “Bless me Father for I have sinned, this is my first confession
- These are my sins (Encourage your child to think of 2 or 3 things (sins) they would like to tell the priest)

Reassure your child how much God loves them unconditionally

Reassure your child they have nothing to “worry” about

Share your own experiences of forgiveness

Review the Commandments

Read about a Saint(s) – role models of faith

Other Scripture Stories related to forgiveness, penance and reconciliation:

The Prodigal Son (Luke 15)

The Paralyzed Man (Matthew 9)

The Woman at the house of the Pharisee (Luke 7)

The Woman at the Well (John 4)

The Question of Forgiveness (Matthew 18)

The Power to Forgive Sin (John 20)