

CHAPTER 14 **God Forgives Us****Centering**

- ✦ Share ring-shaped candy with your child. Talk about the shape of the candy. (life preserver) Encourage your child to talk about a time he or she may have needed a life preserver, literally or figuratively.
- ✦ Ask: **What wrong decision did the Israelites make?** (not to go into Canaan; to complain) **What consequence did they suffer?** (They had to wander for forty years.) Say: **Another consequence the Israelites faced because of their complaining involved snakes.**
- ✦ Say: **Today we're going to learn about how the Israelites turned to God for healing in the desert and how God brought about healing from an unlikely source.**

Sharing PAGE 123

- ✦ Read aloud the chapter title and then have your child read silently A Bronze Serpent on page 123. Ask: **Why did God send snakes among his people?** (because of their complaining) **Why did the Israelites ask Moses to intercede for them?** (They recognized their sinfulness in speaking against God and Moses. They knew Moses was a friend of God's and spoke familiarly with him.)
- ✦ Ask: **Why was the figure of the bronze serpent placed on a pole?** (so that the people who looked upon it with faith could be cured) **Why were the people cured when they looked at the bronze serpent?** (Coming to see the serpent was a sign that they realized their sinfulness and God's power to heal. Because of their repentance and faith, God healed them.)

Sharing PAGE 124

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph and Scripture quote of Jesus Is Lifted Up on page 124. Allow time for your child to answer the questions.
- ✦ Have your child read silently the rest of Jesus Is Lifted Up. Say: **To let Jesus' Death have power in our lives, we must have faith in it. Some ways to do this are listed on this page.** Have your child read aloud the list. Ask: **Which of these sounds like the greatest challenge? What can you do to meet it?**
- ✦ Say: **Jesus saved us. We must open our hearts and our lives to him. We must listen to him and act according to his example. He constantly gives us grace to live his life in our world today. With grace, we can do all he wants us to do.**
- ✦ Read aloud A Moment with Jesus. Allow time for your child to pray quietly.

Sharing PAGE 125

- ♦ Discuss the song “Amazing Grace.” If available, play a recording of the song. Ask: **What has God’s grace done for us? Why do we call it “amazing” grace? What is meant by the lines “I once was lost, but now I’m found; was blind but now I see”?**
- ♦ Have your child read aloud Reconciliation in Our Lives on page 125. Ask: **Why is sin such a great evil?** (It is the cause of all other evil.) **How did Jesus break the power of sin?** (by his Death) **Which relationships are harmed by sin?** (with God, others, and ourselves) **How does God deal with us when we sin?** (He loves us and wants to forgive us.)
- ♦ Have your child complete the activity Receiving Forgiveness. Review his or her answers.
- ♦ Talk about prayers of the Mass in which we express our desire to be reconciled. Ask your child to name some of these prayers. (Lord, have mercy; Lord’s Prayer, sign of peace; Lamb of God; Lord, I am not worthy)
- ♦ Encourage your child to share examples of situations in which apologies and acts of love can show that we are sorry and truly want to be reconciled with another.

Sharing PAGE 126

- ♦ Have your child read aloud Mortal Sin and Venial Sin on page 126. Ask: **Which of the sacraments has as its first purpose “the forgiveness of sins and the healing of the sinner”?** (Reconciliation) **What kind of sins must we confess?** (mortal) **What makes a sin mortal?** (The act is seriously wrong. We know it is seriously wrong. We freely and willingly choose to do it.)
- ♦ Say: **We should also confess venial sins. We don’t have to remember them all, but we should try to confess those we commit most often and those that hurt others the most.**
- ♦ Have your child read silently the sections Reconciliation and Healing and Growth. Ask: **What three actions does a person perform in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?** (repentance, confession of sins to the priest, a commitment to repair the harm caused by the sin)
- ♦ Have your child assemble the Reconciliation Booklet at the back of his or her book. Guide your child through the preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation using the booklet.

- ✦ Say: **If we are truly sorry for our sins, we will not want to commit them again.** Ask: **How can we plan not to commit the same sins over and over?** (Ask ourselves how we can change and follow Jesus more closely. Decide what we will do to be better. Sincerely promise Jesus that we will try not to sin again.)
- ✦ Review the rite for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Say: **Page 8 of your booklet will help prepare you to confess your sins to a priest. Look it over.** Ask: **Do you have any questions?**
- ✦ Say: **Whatever your penance, you should do it as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to remember to do it.**

Acting PAGES 127–128

- ✦ Share your parish schedule for the Sacrament of Reconciliation with your child. Encourage your child to prepare for and celebrate the sacrament soon, and to form the habit of celebrating it regularly.
- ✦ Pray together I Pray to the Holy Spirit on page 2 of the Reconciliation Booklet.
- ✦ Lead your child through the Summary and the Review on pages 127 and 128.
- ✦ Encourage your child to share the Things to Do at Home section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 129–130**INSPIRE**

- ♦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 129. Say: **These verses talk about sin, but they also describe God’s mercy. Ask: Which phrases have special meaning to you?**

PROCLAIM

- ♦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Sin is never simply a personal act. The personal sins we commit always have consequences in our relationship with God and others.**
- ♦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Penance means to turn your heart away from sin and toward God. Acts of penance demonstrate that we want to make better choices.**
- ♦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 130. Say: **Maximilian Mary Kolbe started a religious magazine to preach the Gospel to all nations. He relied on the Blessed Virgin Mary to bring him closer to Jesus.**
- ♦ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ♦ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ♦ Discuss what it means to be a peacemaker. Ask: **What are some obstacles to making peace in the world?** Say: **If you want peace, work for justice.**
- ♦ Review the corporal and spiritual works of mercy on page 269 of your child’s book. Ask: **How can helping others meet their needs help make peace?** (They do not need to resort to violence to get what they need; they see other people as helpers, not as enemies.)