

# Session 2

**Friendship.** Invite your child to tell you what it's like to be someone's friend. What do friends do with and for each other?

1

Explain to your child what it means that **Jesus gave his life for us**. He lived a long time ago, and he was sent by God to teach us how to live and to tell us that God loves us. Some of the people rejected his teachings and they crucified him on the Cross.

2

## Child Page 1

### 2 I Grow Closer to Jesus

**Growing up Catholic means living as a friend of Jesus**

**Jesus loves you very much**

**He gave his life for you!**

**He calls you to**

**be his friend**



**Who are the friends of Jesus?**

- You are!
- You have been chosen by Jesus as a friend
- When you have a friend, you spend time together
- Friends of Jesus talk with him every day
- In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you learn to know Jesus better as your friend
- You are in the process of **growing up Catholic**

**God Chose YOU!**



Growing Up Catholic • First Reconciliation • Ages 7-9 • Session 2  
© 2015. The Pastoral Center. All rights reserved. GrowingUpCatholic.com

Child 1

### From Papa Francis



When Pope Francis visited Rio de Janeiro he spoke about friendship with Christ: "Today Christ asks each of us again: Do you want to be my disciple? Do you want to be my friend? Do you want to be a witness to my Gospel?" Later, he added, "Put on Christ!" in your life, and you will find a friend in whom you can always trust; 'put on Christ' and you will see the wings of hope spreading and letting you journey with joy towards the future; 'put on Christ' and your life will be full of his love; it will be a fruitful life."

3

Explain that in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we say we are sorry for our sins, and we thank Jesus for his sacrifice for us.



**Pray** this with your child, helping him or her follow along as the leader guides you.

1

Explain what it means to do things sometimes that **hurt our friends**. Sometimes, we do things on purpose to hurt others because we are angry with them. Other times things happen that are not on purpose.

2

Explain that we go to Confession because sometimes we fail to love God or other humans as much as we should. Confession helps us stay on track.

3

## Child Page 2



### Prayer Celebration

#### Growing up Catholic makes you a friend of Jesus

*Everyone begins by making the Sign of the Cross.*

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Jesus, we thank you for loving us.

All: Please help us to love others in the same way.

Leader: Jesus, please come to live in our hearts with us.

All: We welcome you as our guest.

Leader: Jesus, help us listen to your words from the Bible.

*Please listen to the reading: John 15:12-17.*

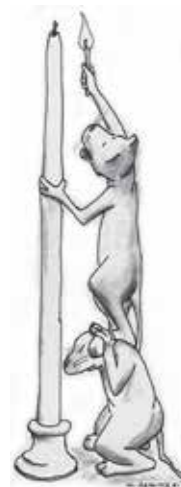
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

*Please listen to the leader.*

Leader: Let us pray together.

*Please pause after each line:*

All: Jesus, thank you for choosing us as your friends,  
and for giving your life for us.  
Thank you for giving us the love  
which we have for each other.  
Help us learn how to be better friends  
by following your teachings  
And teach us how to celebrate  
this Sacrament of Reconciliation.  
Amen.



4

**A note about your child:**  
Children at this age are beginning to understand right from wrong in their choices. You can help them distinguish between them by being very careful not to blame them for accidents which are not their fault.

Child 2

Growing Up Catholic • First Reconciliation • Ages 7-9 • Session 2  
© 2015. The Pastoral Center. All rights reserved. GrowingUpCatholic.com



For this lesson, it is necessary for you to have a **Bible** in your hands.

1

This exercise lists teachings which come from the Ten Commandments, "**God's Rules of Love.**" Help your child identify and circle them.

2

**The Holy Spirit.** Explain to your child that the Holy Spirit is with us every day, helping us know what God wants us to do. Tell them about your own experience of the Holy Spirit – perhaps a time when you felt inspired, or when you had an insight that came from God. Tell them that the Holy Spirit is God's Spirit – it's the Spirit of Love!

3

### Child Page 3

## The Bible and the Holy Spirit

### What is the Bible?

- The Bible is a holy book.
- It tells the story of how God loved all of our ancestors before Jesus
- It tells us how to live as friends of Jesus



### Rules of Love

God gave us Rules of Love (The Ten Commandments) to help us know what to do to be good, to choose love, and to avoid sin.

The Church helps us understand these Rules of Love.

From the list below, circle the ones that are in the Bible and cross out the ones that aren't:

Obey your  
parents

Don't steal

How to fix a  
car

Keep Sunday holy

How to play soccer

Never tell a lie

What kind of  
cereal is best for  
breakfast

### Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is a special helper sent by Jesus to help you stay close to him.

The Holy Spirit helps you be sorry when you do things that are wrong.

It is like your conscience helping you know what is right and what is wrong.

It is the **Spirit of God within you!**



Growing Up Catholic • First Reconciliation • Ages 7-9 • Session 2  
© 2015. The Pastoral Center. All rights reserved. GrowingUpCatholic.com

Child 3

### Special Note

This would be a wonderful time to buy your child a Bible as a gift. There are several good children's Bibles available that use language that is easy for children to understand. See [GrowingUpCatholic.com](http://GrowingUpCatholic.com) for suggestions. Invite them to put their name in the Bible, to make it their own. Tell them it's OK to underline favorite passages, or to write notes in the margin of their Bible. Another option is for you as a family to own a Bible which everyone uses together.



Ask your child to read this passage aloud.

1

## Meeting Jesus in the Bible

Jesus helps us choose right from wrong. The Holy Spirit is our helper. We learn how to make good choices.

### The Man with Two Sons

Jesus told everyone a story:

A man had two sons.

He went to one of them and said,  
"Come and help me."

But his son said "No, I won't help."

Then later this son changed his mind  
and showed up to help his dad.

Then the father went to his other son  
and also asked him to help him.

This son said "Yes, I will help!"  
but then he never did show up.

"Which son did what his father wanted?"  
Jesus asked.

The people answered,  
"The first one.  
Even though he said no, eventually he did go to help."

Jesus said, "That's right. People who commit sins will  
go to heaven if they are sorry for them.

But a lot of people say they will have faith,  
but then they never do. Don't be like them!"

(Based on Matthew 21:28-32)



Explain that sometimes **it is hard to make good choices**. We get stubborn or we feel lazy. So even when you as parents, or their teachers, or the pastor of the parish, tell kids what is right and wrong, they still might make bad choices.

3

Now ask your child to tell the story in their own words.

2

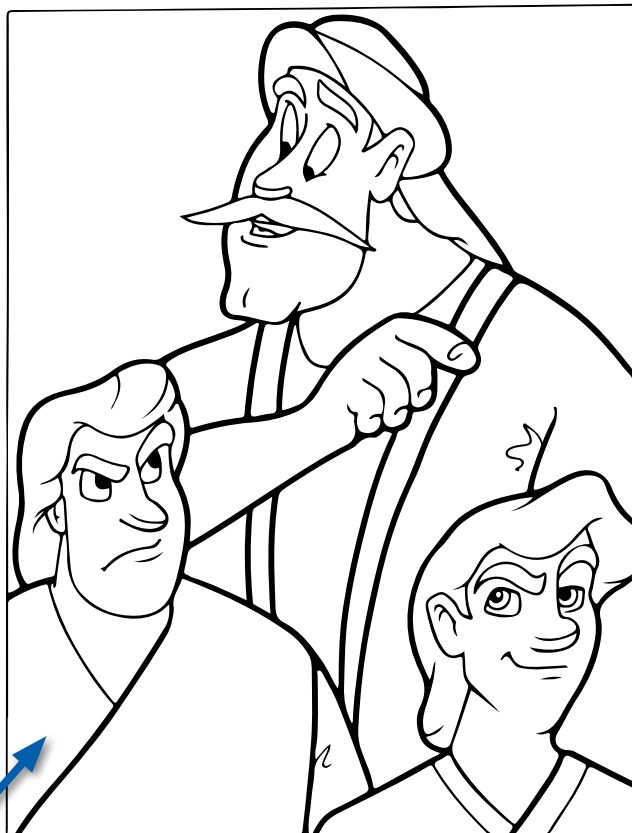
Refer to the Bible story again and say that what matters is that in the end, the son **changed his mind and heart** and did what his father asked him to. We can make up for our bad choices by making a firm promise to be good in the future.

4





## Color This Picture



Growing Up Catholic • First Reconciliation • Ages 7-9 • Session 2  
© 2015. The Pastoral Center. All rights reserved. GrowingUpCatholic.com

Child 5

1

**Time for a break!** Help your child enjoy coloring this image of the Bible story. You can color, too, if your child says it's okay.

Coloring time is a good time to be close to your child without necessarily talking about faith. Don't be afraid to put your arm around your child during this time.





## Making Good Choices

Growing up Catholic means learning to know when you commit a sin.

**An accident:** An action not done on purpose. Accidents are not sins.

**A choice to sin:** A bad action done on purpose, or choosing on purpose not to do something good. If you know it's wrong and you do it anyway, it's a sin.

### Is each of these a choice or an accident?

Write an "A" in the box if the action was an accident.  
Write an "S" on the line if it was a sin.

**S**

Your mom asks you to clean your room but you decide to watch TV instead.

OR

**A**

Your mom asks you to clean your room but your school bus comes and you can't do it right now.

**A**

You drop your sister's favorite toy and it breaks.

OR

**S**

You are angry with your sister, so you break her favorite toy.

**S**

Your dad asks where your homework is but you didn't do it so you lie and say you don't know.

OR

**A**

Your dad asks where your homework is but you forgot where you put it and tell him that.



Child 6

Growing Up Catholic • First Reconciliation • Ages 7-9 • Session 2  
© 2015. The Pastoral Center. All rights reserved. GrowingUpCatholic.com

Help your child understand the **difference between accidents and sins**. It's not a sin to do something accidentally, even if a bad thing happens as a result. A child of this age can begin to distinguish between these two things.

1

Work with your child to find the right answers here. If he or she gets any wrong the first time, make sure to explain the reasoning.

2

Help your child understand:

(1) **Sin is freely choosing to do wrong**

(2) It hurts both them and the people around them.

(3) Sin also weakens our friendship with God.

3





## The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Also called "Confession" or "Penance"

Explain to your child that it is necessary to **prepare** to celebrate Reconciliation.

1

### You Get Ready to Make Your Confession

How do you prepare your heart for this moment?

- You spend time in quiet, thinking about ways that you have sinned.
- You ask God to help you be honest and humble.
- You trust the priest to help you.



### The Reading From the Bible

After the priest welcomes you, what is the next thing that happens?

- There is often a reading from the Bible about God's mercy.

### Complete the Words of this Prayer

Pray them as you get ready for your first celebration of Reconciliation.

Dear Jesus,

My name is (name). I am from the parish of (parish).

I love you very much. Help me be humble as I get ready to go to confession for the very first time. I want to be honest about my sins and tell them all to the priest. Thank you for loving me and forgiving me.

Love, (name)

Help your child fill in the blanks in this prayer. He or she may have some other ideas about the blanks to fill in, but we've filled in our suggestions.

2



The material which you take home between the sessions (or continue to do at home if you are learning there in the first place) is very important. It helps your child see that religion is not merely something for the parish. **It's for everyday life!**

Talk with your child about the words they chose to list. Also **do this exercise yourself**. Which phrase or ideas came through to you? Share that with your child.

Take the time to **help your child learn more about the Bible this week**. Explain that the word "Scripture" and "Bible" mean the same thing. We read Scripture so often because it is God's Word. If you have a family Bible or if you gave your child a Bible, invite them to find these passages and underline them.

## Child Page 8



### At Home This Week

Work on this together at home as a way of continuing the process of preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Use the following chart to read passages from the Bible that will help you prepare to make a good Confession.

For the child to read	For the parent to read	Write one or two words that you noticed in this reading
<b>Matthew 6:14</b> For if you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.	<b>Matthew 6:15</b> But if you do not forgive them, neither will your Father forgive your sins.	
<b>Luke 6:32</b> If you love only those who love you, how does that make you good?	<b>Luke 6:35</b> Love your enemies... your reward will be great.	
<b>James 2:14</b> What good is it if you say you have faith but you don't live that way?	<b>James 2:17</b> It isn't enough to say you believe if you don't act that way.	
<b>1 Peter 3:8</b> Have unity of spirit among you.	<b>1 Peter 3:8</b> Love one another with a tender heart and a humble mind.	
<b>1 John 2:10</b> Whoever loves another lives in the light of God.	<b>1 John 2:11</b> Whoever hates another lives in darkness.	
<b>1 John 3:18</b> Little children, let us love, not in word alone, but in truth and action!	<b>1 John 3:23</b> This is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of Jesus and love one another.	



### Tips and Activities for This Week

Use your computer, phone, or tablet to view this week's page: [GrowingUpCatholic.com/r2](http://GrowingUpCatholic.com/r2). Each week, find suggested activities, videos, ideas, parenting tips, and more!



Child 8

Growing Up Catholic • First Reconciliation • Ages 7-9 • Session 2  
© 2015. The Pastoral Center. All rights reserved. GrowingUpCatholic.com

Check out the online page for this lesson at [GrowingUpCatholic.com/r2](http://GrowingUpCatholic.com/r2).

It includes tips and videos for learning about the Bible (and purchasing one for yourself).

## Closing prayer

Dear Jesus,  
we know you are with us here.  
You are present in this room.

We love you  
and want to love you more.  
Help us be more loving this week.

Thank you for giving us faith.  
Increase our faith every day.

Now let us pray together:

**Glory Be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end, Amen.**

**In the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

