



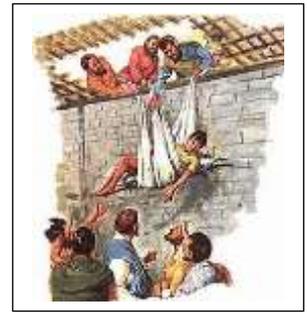
Aim: To help your child to understand that God is the one who forgive us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Note to the Parent: It is important for your child to know that God is always ready to forgive us.

- ❖ God loves and always forgives your child – and you too!
- ❖ Your child needs to know this truth about God.

Parent: Welcome the child and other members of the family and gather them in a circle in the room.

- ❖ Tell everyone: Today we are going to hear a story of Jesus who forgave someone. (See Luke 5:17-26)



Parent and other members of the family: Tell the following story: (*P = Parent, M = Other Member of the family*)

- P. It happened like this: One day, Jesus was teaching and many of the religious leaders had come from all the towns to hear him. They were sitting there while the power of the Lord was at work to heal the sick.
- M. Then some men brought a paralyzed man lying on his mat. They tried to enter the house and place him before Jesus, but they couldn't find a way through the crowd.
- P. So they went up on the roof and, removing the tiles, they lowered him on his mat into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus.
- M. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "My friend, your sins are forgiven."
- P. At once the teachers of the law and the Pharisees began to wonder. "This is terrible!! This man insults God. Who can forgive sins, but only God!"
- M. But Jesus knew what they were thinking so he said to them, "Why are you criticising me in your minds? Which of these is easier to say:
- N. "Your sins are forgiven", or, "Get up and walk?"
- P. "Do you want to know if the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins?"
- M. Then he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home."
- P. At once the man stood before them, he took up the mat on which he lay and went home praising God.
- M. All the people were amazed and they praised God. They said, "What wonderful things we have seen today!"

Parent: Now have a discussion among the members of the family:

- ❖ What sign did Jesus give to show that he could forgive sins?
- ❖ How wonderful is that?
- ❖ We always are happy when we are given a sign that we are forgiven.
- ❖ When I forgive you, what sign do I give? How do you know that you are forgiven?
- ❖ So when we go to Confession, what sign does the priest give that God forgives us?



(He raises his hand over us and says the words of forgiveness on behalf of God and of the Church – It is good to know this! We can be as happy as the paralyzed man and people in the house with Jesus).

Celebration:

Parent:

- ❖ Let us thank God that we can always know when he forgives us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- ❖ Let us thank one another that we show each other that we are forgiven too.

Make a gesture or sign of forgiveness among the family members.

If possible some cool juice all round!