

Living Faith Kids

God's Gift of Forgiveness



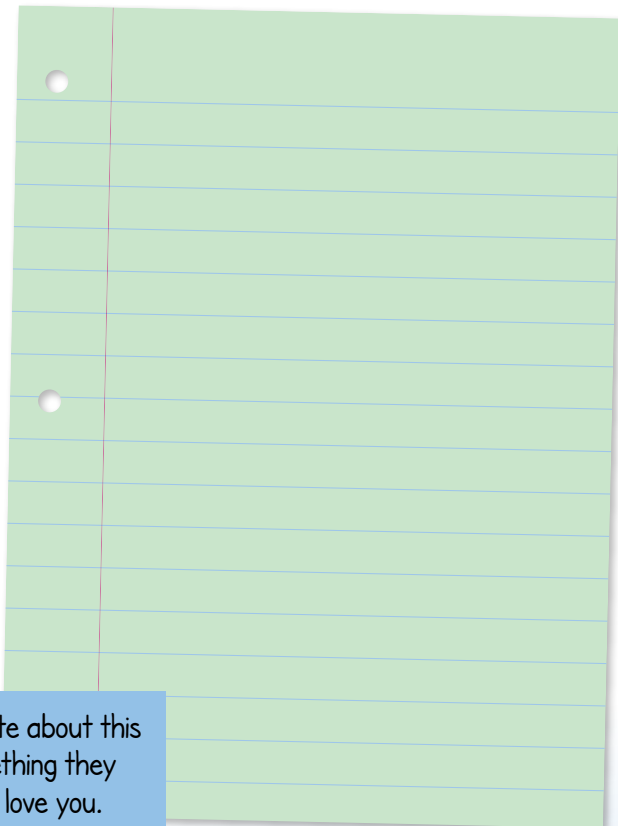
All About Reconciliation

You are getting ready to receive the Sacrament

You probably have lots of questions. Let's start with an easy one. What's this sacrament all about? You might answer that it's about confessing your sins. That's true, but it's just one part of it. There's much more, and it all begins with one word: love.

What do we mean?

Well, people talk about love all the time. But how do you know when someone really loves you? They show it, right? Maybe there's someone in your family who cooks your favorite foods or spends time with you, listening to what you have to say. Think about someone who loves you.



Use the space here to write about this awesome person and something they do to show how much they love you.

BIG? QUESTION

Wait. Isn't this sacrament called

confession? The sacrament of reconciliation is known by many

titles. It is sometimes called confession, penance or the sacrament of forgiveness. Each of these names describe a part of the sacrament. For example, we confess our sins by telling the priest what we did that was sinful. We receive a penance, a way to show how sorry we are for our sins. We'll learn more about all this on the pages ahead.

of Reconciliation!

We know that people love us because of the good things they do for us. It's the same with God. We know God loves us because he has created our beautiful earth and all the people in it. He created us! He even sent us his only Son, Jesus, to show us his love. We know that Jesus loves us because he suffered on the cross and died—for us. Jesus rose from the dead so that we might live with him in joy and peace forever.

Did you know that kids like you have an extra special place in Jesus' loving heart? Here's a story about that:

ONE DAY, Jesus was teaching a big crowd. Some of the people brought their children to Jesus for a blessing. But Jesus' disciples tried to shoo them away. Jesus saw this and said, "Let the children come to me. Don't keep them away. The kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Then Jesus hugged and blessed the children.

— BASED ON MARK 10:1, 13-16

Add stickers to
illustrate the story.



welcome to the family!

To understand reconciliation, there's even more to know about love. And the best places to learn about love are in our families. Your family's love is special. It keeps you close no matter where you go. You show your love when you gather for special times. You might also share memories or even family jokes. Can you think of a special family memory right now?

Use the space here to draw a comic about this special memory. Use the stickers to accent your story.

You are also part of God's family. God loves his family and wants to keep us close no matter where we go or where we live. He wants us to care for each other and gather together when we can. Who else is part of God's family? Read the story on the next page to find out.

JOHN

was baptizing people in a river called the Jordan. Jesus came and asked John to baptize him. John was shocked.

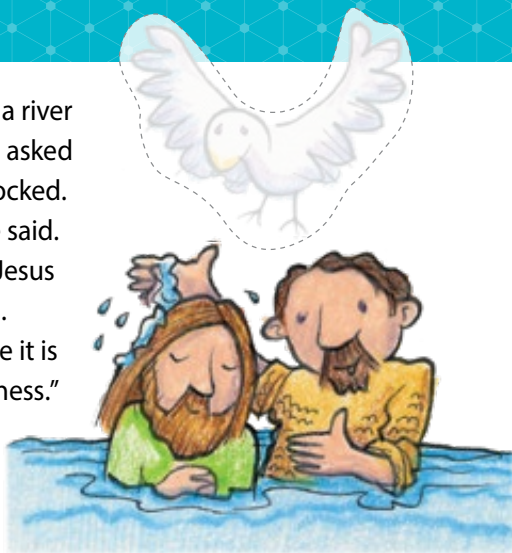
"I need to be baptized by you," he said.

"And yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said that this was what he wanted.

"Allow it now," Jesus said. "Because it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."

After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and the sky opened up. The Spirit of God could be seen coming down

like a dove onto Jesus. A voice came from above, saying, "This is my beloved Son. I am well pleased with him."



— BASED ON MATTHEW 3:13-17

At his baptism, Jesus shows us that he is God's son. Jesus invites us to be baptized so that we, too, can live as God's children. At our baptism, we are welcomed into God's great big family. We join countless other people who have been baptized just as Jesus was. Another way to describe God's family is **the Church**. That's everyone all around the world who has been baptized. That's people on earth and people in heaven, like Mary, the saints and people you love who have died. Sit for a moment and think about what it means to be part of God's amazing family.



BIG? QUESTION!

What if I haven't been baptized yet? God's love is infinite and forever.

It doesn't stop with people who are baptized. God created you and he loves you. He invites you to join his family of Christians in baptism. When you choose to be baptized, you're saying "yes" to God's invitation. Imagine how happy that makes God!

Families forgive each other

Even though families love each other, they sometimes make poor choices. Jesus once told a story about this:

A MAN

had two sons. He planned to leave all of his money to them when he died, but his younger son didn't want to wait. "Please give me everything now," the son said. So his dad gave him everything that was coming to him. The son took the money and left home. He spent it all on silly things. Soon he had nothing left. The only job he could find was caring for pigs. He was so hungry that even the pigs' food looked good! Finally, thinking about his many mistakes, he headed home. While he was still a long way off, his father spotted him. Filled with **compassion**, the father ran to his son. He **hugged** and kissed him.

"Father," the son said, "I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." The father told his servants to bring out the finest clothes, a ring and some sandals for his son. "Let's

celebrate with a great **meal**," he said. "Because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again. He was lost and has been found."



BIG? QUESTION!

Does God forgive everyone? Yes! As long as we are sorry for what we've done. God will never stop loving us!

When the older son heard about it, he was angry. "All these years I served you and not once did I disobey you," he complained to his dad. "Yet you never gave me even the smallest gift. But when your son spends all your money and returns home, you throw a party for him." The father answered, "My son, you are with me always. Everything I have is yours. But now our **family** must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again. He was lost and has been found."

— BASED ON LUKE 15:11-32



This story is called the Parable of the Prodigal Son. ("Prodigal" means spending money carelessly.) Jesus wanted to show how God our Father is like the father in the story. Even when we mess up, God still loves us with great compassion. Another word for compassion is mercy.

Find the words in the story (in bold letters) that come from the dad's mercy to fit in the spaces here.

M _____
_____ E _____
_____ R _____
C _____
_____ Y _____

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3.

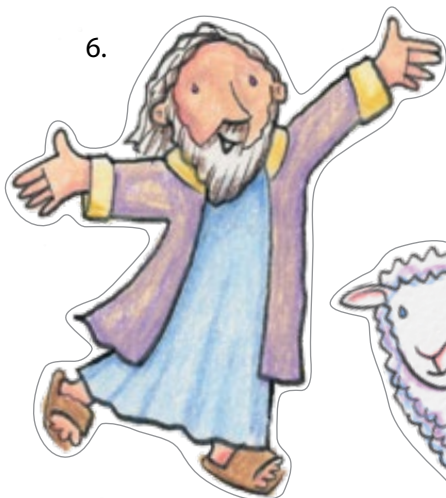


Use the stickers above for your comic on page 4. Note: There are some extras.

5.



6.



7.



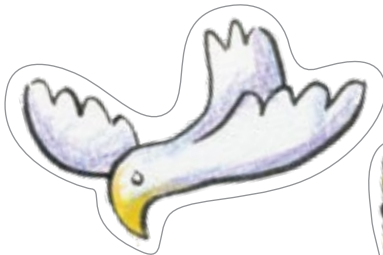
10.



9.



12.



14-15.



God's Gift of Forgiveness

**Wondering about
the sacrament of
reconciliation?**

What does it mean? What do you have to do? This booklet explains what this amazing sacrament is all about. (Hint: it involves God's great love for you!) You'll learn how reconciliation brings so much peace and joy to people—and to kids like you. Want to know more? Take a peek inside, learn a little, check out all the neat stickers and do some of the activities. You'll understand why Pope Francis says that people leave confession feeling "free, great, beautiful, forgiven and happy!"

Other Living Faith Sticker Books



www.creativecommunications.com

Living Faith Kids
Daily Catholic Devotions

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