

STD 4 Lesson Plan 10 : The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Introduction (10 minutes)

Objective: To introduce the Sacrament of Reconciliation using the story of Zacchaeus, and to explain why and how we ask for forgiveness from God.

Activity:

1. **Opening Prayer:** Begin with a simple prayer asking for God's help in understanding forgiveness and reconciliation.
2. **Story Introduction:** Show the picture of Zacchaeus in the tree. Ask the children if they know the story and briefly explain that Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus and was forgiven by Him.

Presentation of Topic (15 minutes)

Objective: To explain the story of Zacchaeus and the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, including how to prepare for it and what it means for us.

Lesson Content:

1. **Bible Story:** Read Luke 19:1-10. Focus on how Zacchaeus repented and changed his ways after meeting Jesus. Emphasize Jesus' words, "Today salvation has come to this house" (Luke 19:9), showing how repentance leads to forgiveness and salvation.
2. **Explanation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation:**
 - **What is It?** Explain that this sacrament helps us ask for God's forgiveness, make amends for our sins, and get back into a good relationship with God.
 - **How Does It Work?** Jesus forgives our sins through the priest, who acts in His place. It's like having a friend who helps us say sorry and make things right with God.
 - **Five Conditions to Receive the Sacrament Effectively:**
 1. **Examine Your Conscience:** Think about what you did wrong.
 2. **Repent:** Feel truly sorry for what you did.
 3. **Firm Decision:** Decide to do your best not to do those things again.
 4. **Confess:** Tell a priest about your sins.
 5. **Do Penance:** Follow the priest's advice to make up for your sins.

Bible Verse: "Today salvation has come to this house" (Luke 19:9). Explain that just as Zacchaeus was welcomed back into God's love, we too are welcomed and forgiven when we ask for it sincerely.

Practical Application (10 minutes)

Objective: To help children understand how they can prepare for and benefit from the Sacrament of Reconciliation in their own lives.

Activity:

1. **Reflection Sheet:** Distribute activity sheets with prompts like “One thing I need to say sorry for,” “How I will try not to do that again,” and “A way I can make things right.” Have children complete the sheets, helping them think about how they can prepare for confession in a simple, age-appropriate way.

Activity (15 minutes)

Objective: To reinforce the lesson through a creative activity that helps children understand and remember the importance of reconciliation and forgiveness.

Activity:

1. **Forgiveness Chain:** Create a “Forgiveness Chain” where each child decorates a paper link with a way they can practice forgiveness or reconciliation. Link the chains together to create a visual reminder of their commitment to forgiveness.

Closure/Homework (10 minutes)

Objective: To review the lesson and encourage children to practice forgiveness and preparation for reconciliation in their daily lives.