

Queen of Angels School of Religion
Sunday Morning Classes
Grade 2 -- Preparation for First Communion

Student Text: Christ Our Life *God Cares For Us* Level 2 (Loyola Press)

Unit 3: Jesus Gives Us The Gift of Peace

The Gospel stories show us God's great love for sinners. Jesus extends this same forgiveness to us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The children will be preparing for this sacrament as well as the reception of the Sacrament of the Eucharist this year.

Chapter 9 : Our Friend Jesus Forgives Us

No matter what we do, Jesus is always ready to forgive us and be our friend. Through Jesus we see that God calls sinners to seek his forgiveness and peace. Jesus invites us, as he invited Zacchaeus, to change his heart.

Scripture: Luke 19: 1-20 The story of Zacchaeus.

Class Discussion:

- We love our friends but sometimes we have disagreements with them or hurt their feelings by what we say and do.
- When we apologize to our friends they forgive us. We are friends again and that makes both of us happy.
- Jesus brought great happiness to Zacchaeus when he came to eat at his house. Zacchaeus became a better person because of this visit.
- We know that Jesus loves us because we have family and friends who love us.
- When we try to become a kinder and more loving person to our friends and family, we are becoming more of a friend to Jesus.

Group Prayer: O my God, please help me to love you and to love others more.

Ways to Extend the Lesson at Home:

- Ask your child to tell you about pages 2 and 3 of the reconciliation booklet. Help her/him to find a photo or to draw a portrait for page 2. Ask your child to tell you one of the stories on pages 4-6.
- Help your child express sorrow each evening for being selfish, thoughtless, or hurtful toward others by any word or action during the day.
- Help your child think of ways to make up for acts of selfishness and unkindness by doing something kind and helpful to the injured person. Something as simple as taking out the garbage without being told, being silent during class, reading to a younger sibling can be ways to make up for acts of thoughtlessness.
- Read and discuss Rotten Ralph by Jack Gantos.

Teacher's Note:

The students in class will be receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation in about a month in accordance with the directives from Cardinal George. It will be a simplified form of the sacrament so that the children will be able to understand what they are doing. The children will actually go to the priest and confess a sin. At the time draws nearer, more details will be sent your way.