

Jesus Invites us to Forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation: A Lesson on Forgiveness and God's Love

GRADES 7-9 - Lesson I (Year III, Day 5)

Goal: Students will recognize that sorrow for sinning should be accompanied by self-forgiveness and a willingness to change behavior. Students will learn that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a sacrament of healing, in which Jesus is seeking renewed relationship with us.

Lesson:

Each of us is in need of forgiveness because we have all sinned. Sin is the choice to do what we know is wrong. Sin wounds our relationship with God, with others, and with ourselves. Perhaps you've had the experience of hurting someone you love and feeling totally helpless to "make things better." We can't go back into the past and change our actions. So, what can we do? We need a Savior! We need someone who can forgive our sins and bring us back into a relationship with God and with others. This is why Jesus came and died on the Cross for us. Sin doesn't have the last word! This lesson will explore how we can receive forgiveness and rejoice in it!

Read: [The Permanent Wounds of Mercy](#)

Jesus knows all of our sins and sufferings, all of our wounds. He doesn't want to just sweep them away and "forget" them, He wants to make them glorious, beautiful signs of His grace and His love for you. When we let Him touch our wounds, in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, they are transformed. He is so tender and loving, we never have to be afraid to be totally honest with Him

Activity:

Lead the students through an [Examination of Conscience pamphlet](#).

Encourage the students to close their eyes as you read the questions and answer silently in their hearts. When you have finished, encourage them to bring these sins to the Merciful Jesus in Confession. If possible, try to arrange for a priest to be available to hear the students' confessions that day or later that week.

Bonus Watch: ["How to Make a Good Confession"](#)

Prayer:

[Litany of Mercy](#)