

YEAR LEVEL	Year 1 & 2
TITLE	Jesus Helps Me To Choose
STRAND	SACRAMENTS
SUGGESTED DURATION	6 weeks
ENDURING QUESTIONS	Why do we have Sacraments? How can the Sacraments influence my life?



Unit Focus

In this unit the students will prepare for the Sacrament of Penance. The students will be guided to a deeper awareness of God's presence in people and the world. Through experiences of healing and forgiveness, the students may come to know God more fully.

Achievement Standards

By the end of **Year Two** students should be able to:

Identify that sacraments are special celebrations in the Church. They describe various elements of sacramental celebrations in the Church.

Unit Outcomes

By the end of this unit students should be able to:

1. Understand that God always forgives them when they say they are sorry.
2. Identify the Sacrament of Penance as the Church's celebration of God's peace and forgiveness.

Key Understandings for Students

- In Sacraments special words, actions and objects are used.
- Sacramental symbols are made up of ritual, action and narrative.
- Baptism welcomes us into the Christian community and unites us with Christ.
- God is a forgiving God.
- When we hurt someone we need to acknowledge what we have done.
- The Sacrament of Penance heals and brings us back to God and one another through forgiveness.

Student Context

Students at this level are becoming increasingly aware of the requirements of belonging to a group or community. They like ritual, and are learning to separate fantasy from reality.

The students' social skills are becoming more sophisticated. They increasingly recognise the significance and nature of rules and boundaries. Their reasoning ability has taken a significant step forward. Students are developing a greater understanding of the concepts of *right* and *wrong*. They respond well to storytelling as it stimulates their imaginations and helps them form religious images.

Theological Background for Teachers

- As members of the Church we express sorrow in different ways through the sign of peace, the sign of the cross, lamb of God, Lord I am not worthy, Lord have mercy and the Sacrament of Penance.
- We are called to live with other people in community and to strengthen and enrich these communities.
- We have an important role as a Christian Community to be of service to others in our everyday lives.
- Baptism welcomes us into the Christian community. It is one of the three initiation Sacraments of the Catholic Church.
- Jesus revealed to us a God who is forgiving and reaches out to heal those who need forgiveness and healing.
- "The Church celebrates the forgiving and healing presence of God through the sacraments of Penance and the Anointing of the Sick. These celebrations ritualised for us through word, gesture and symbol the reality that Jesus is among us and has saved us. Jesus offers more than forgiveness and healing through these sacraments. He offers all that is needed for a renewed relationship with God and others." (Melbourne Guidelines)
- "The practice of penance has varied considerably down the centuries. In very early days satisfaction, usually in the form of public penance, was very much to the fore. Re-acceptance into the Church community normally took place only after completion of the penance imposed. More and more, however, penance has withdrawn from the public domain and today only the private administration of the sacrament is still in use." (www.catholic.org)
- In Catholic Theology, sacramental confession and absolution is the normative means by which a person receives God's forgiveness of serious (grave) sin and reconciliation with the Church.

Scripture

Luke 15:4-7 The Lost Sheep

If any of you has a hundred sheep, and one of them gets lost, what will you do? Won't you leave the ninety-nine in the field and go look for the lost sheep until you find it? And when you find it, you will be so glad that you will put it on your shoulder and carry it home. Then you will call in your friends and neighbours and say, "Let's celebrate! I've found my lost sheep."

Jesus said, "In the same way there is more happiness in heaven because of one sinner who turns to God than over ninety-nine good people who don't need to."

Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus Godly Play (Sydney)

Jesus was going through Jericho, where a man named Zacchaeus lived. He was in charge of collecting taxes and was very rich. Jesus was heading his way, and Zacchaeus wanted to see what he was like. But Zacchaeus was a short man and could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree. When Jesus got there, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to stay with you today." Zacchaeus hurried down and gladly welcomed Jesus.

Everyone who saw this started grumbling, "This man Zacchaeus is a sinner! And Jesus is going home to eat with him."

Later that day Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "I will give half of my property to the poor. And I will now pay back four times as much to everyone I have ever cheated." Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today you and your family

have been saved, because you are a true son of Abraham. The Son of Man came to look for and to save people who are lost."

Major Assessment Task

Students illustrate the steps of saying sorry and being forgiven in the Sacrament of Penance. (Expressions Book 2 p.79)

TASK: Use pictures/words to tell a story about a time when they have been forgiven, and include how the story could be if they were to include the events in the story in the celebration of Reconciliation.

Suggested Teaching & Learning Experiences

Focusing Activity

Students listen to the story *I'm Sorry* by Sam McBratney or *Sorry* by Trudy Ludwig. (or similar story). Discuss the story and the effects that the character's choices had on others.

- Refer to Expressions Book 2 Topic 4 for a range of activities related to Reconciliation.
- Students role play a situation of making a right/wrong choice, talk about it and share it with the whole group.
- Students list different ways to make up with people who have been hurt using Hot Potato strategy.
- Read *The Very Best Of Friends* by Margaret Wild / Julie Vivas or *Miss Lily's Fabulous Pink Feather Boa* by Margaret Wild. Discuss the choices made by the characters, categorize according to good and poor choices but then move on to how the characters mended their relationships.
- Whole group discussion - feelings about how they have felt before and after they have hurt or been hurt and felt forgiveness.
- Read students the scripture Luke 15:4-7 Students complete a comic strip outlining the key moments from the scripture.
- Godly Play Zacchaeus. Allow time and resources for children to respond.
- Read the story of Zacchaeus (Lk 19:1-10). One child acts as Zacchaeus and children from the class interview him to discover how he felt before and after meeting Jesus, and how his life has changed.
- Use Expressions Book 2 Topic 4 (Ryan) to explore the Reconciliation process for Zacchaeus, and Miss Lily.
- Have the students reflect on the following questions in their journals: What can we do when we make a mistake or have a fight? Who can help us? What is the difference between getting even and making up? How

does it feel when we have been hurt? How does it feel when we are not forgiven? How does it feel when we are forgiven?

- Brainstorm feelings before/after reconciliation. Use drama (frozen statues) to express these for the class.
- Invite the Parish Priest to talk to the students about the Sacrament of Penance. Invite a parent to speak about their experience of confession.
- Prepare for and celebrate a simple Forgiveness Prayer Service. All students should be given the opportunity to take part in the celebration through reading, music, writing prayers, singing and movement. Or prepare and participate in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation according to particular parish arrangements.

Prayer Ritual

Gather the students around the class prayer table. Light a candle and explain Jesus' presence with us as we gather in prayer together. Begin with the sign of the cross.

Leader: In the Scriptures, we learn about forgiveness and how we can forgive others. Reading about these stories of forgiveness and about forgiving others helps us to make good decisions and teaches us how to treat others.

Select some meditation music and ask the children to think about the following questions:

- What can we do when we make a mistake or have a fight?
- Who can help us?
- How does it feel when we are forgiven?
- How does it feel when we forgive others?
- Why is it important to forgive others?

Ask students to share any prayers of the faithful they may have after their period of meditation.

Leader: Lord hear these prayers and the prayers in our hearts. Amen.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Zacchaeus - Godly Play