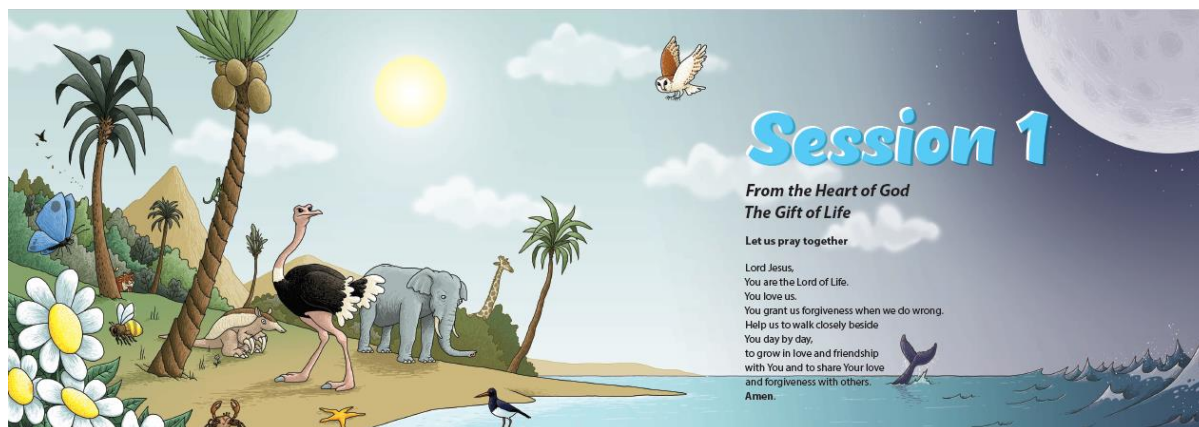


Heart Speaks to Heart: The Gift of Reconciliation

Exploring Session 1 Together



Turn to **PAGE 10** in the *Heart Speaks to Heart* book. There you will see a magnificent picture of creation by Si Smith. Take a few moments to look at the picture. What do you notice?

Opposite the picture on **PAGE 11** is the opening prayer. Pray this prayer together.

On **PAGES 12-13** there is a conversation between Grandpa and the twins. Read through their dialogue. Read the questions at the bottom of page 13 and try to answer them together. Here are some suggestions for answers that you may give:

How do you feel [as First Reconciliation preparation is starting]?

You may be feeling excited or nervous. Have a look at the Feelings Chart: do you recognise how you are feeling in the illustrations pictured there?

Are you worried about anything?

Listen carefully to the answers given here. Priests and catechists should be available to reassure you if you do have concerns.

What are you looking forward to?

Some answers may include: talking together and finding out more about our faith, about Reconciliation (Confession) and about Jesus; the actual day of the celebration of First Reconciliation: you may be planning a special way as a family to mark the day.

Are there any [other] questions you want to ask?

For example, you may be asking: What do I have to do to make my first Confession? The answer to this question will be dealt with in future sessions.

Turn to **PAGE 14**. This page introduces the session's virtue, which is Thankfulness. Read the page together. We will think more about Thankfulness later in the session.

Look at **PAGES 16-17** where the Bible's story of Creation is told. You will notice a large blank space on page 17. This space is where you can write or draw thoughts which come to you as the story is read.

This activity is called Bible Journaling. You may like to Google *Bible Journaling* to get more ideas about what to do on these pages. An example of what Bible Journaling looks like is given on page 16 (the 'Let there be light' still needs to be coloured in).

Before you read the story, read the instructions on page 16.

After reading the story:

- Talk together about the words that you have underlined
- Decide what you want to write and draw in the blank spaces
- Begin to put words and designs into the spaces (in pencil)
- Finish off your designs and add colour later

Turn to **PAGE 18**. Read through what it says about giving thanks for the gift of Jesus. At the bottom of the page there are some questions. Talk together about these questions. Here are some suggestions to help you to answer the questions:

1. What are you thankful for?

Some of the information given on page 14 may help you to answer this question. We may be thankful for: the world we live in; our family and friends and other people that we know, e.g. teachers and priests; all the gifts that we have been given; etc.

2. How do you show that you are thankful?

An important way of showing thanks is by saying, 'Thank you'!

3. What are you thankful to God for?

Some of the answers may be similar to those given in question 1 above. We are thankful to God for: the wonderful things that there are in our world; particular members of our family and our friends; etc. We especially give thanks for Jesus, who brings us God's love and shows us how to bring that love to others.

4. How do you show your thankfulness to God?

We can say 'thank you' to God in prayer, thanking Him for:

- the gift of life and of special people in our lives
- the gift of Jesus who is our true and faithful friend

Complete the word search on **PAGE 19**. Ask for help if you are struggling.

Turn to **PAGE 20**. Read this page and talk together about the questions as you come across them. Here are some suggestions to help you to answer these questions:

On Baptism:

1. When and where were you baptised?

Do you know the name of the Church and the date of Baptism? Do you have a Baptism Certificate (this should give you details of your Baptism)? Are there photos of the Baptism? Have you still got the baptismal candle and the white garment?

The picture on page 21 shows the main things that happen at Baptism. The pictures need to be read in three columns:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Named & Signed | 3. Baptised with water | 5. White garment |
| 2. Oil of Baptism | 4. Oil of Chrism | 6. Candle |

- How many times is water poured over the child being baptised and why?
- What was the white garment chosen for the occasion?
- Who held the child's baptismal candle?
- Do you know why there are two holy oils? Googling may help!

2. Who are your godparents? What do you know about your godparents?

For various reasons, you may not see much of the godparents (because, for example, they may live far away). Share what you can. There may be photos of the godparents at the Baptism ceremony.

Turn to **PAGE 22**. On this page there are suggestions for some activities to do before you meet to look at Session 2. Read through this page and ask for help if you are not sure what to do.

On **PAGE 23** of *Heart Speaks to Heart*, there are prayers to end this session.

Firstly, there is a time of Quiet Prayer:

- Sit quietly
- Close your eyes
- Listen to your breathing
- Quietly and slowly say a few times: **Jesus: my light and my life**
- Allow a period of silence for about 2 minutes
- End the silence, perhaps by making the Sign of the Cross:
'In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.'

To end the session, pray together the concluding prayer (the **Glory Be**) which you will find written out on the right-hand column of page 23.

Stick the 'Thankfulness' sticker onto your sticker chart to show that you have completed this first session.