

## Heart Speaks to Heart: The Gift of Reconciliation

### Exploring Session 2 Together



Turn to **PAGE 24** in the *Heart Speaks to Heart* book. There you will see a picture of Adam and Eve in Paradise. Take a few moments to look at the picture. What do you notice?

Opposite the picture on **PAGE 25** is the opening prayer. Pray this prayer together.

On **PAGES 26-27** there is a conversation between Grandpa and the twins. Read through their dialogue. Read the questions at the bottom of page 27 and try to answer them together. Here are some suggestions for answers that you may give:

#### **What preparation for First Reconciliation have you been doing at home since last time?**

Share any work that you have been doing on Reconciliation since the last time that you met, e.g. finishing off the Bible Journaling; making entries in the Reflection Book; interviewing someone about Baptism; reading the *Max and Droogo* story; taking time to pray; etc.

#### **What gifts do you think that you have?**

Think about what you like doing and what you are good at: this may help you to identify your gifts (as Grandpa tries to do with the twins on pages 26-27). You may think of something like singing or sports or being good with numbers or at writing; or you may think of something like being a good listener or a hard worker.

**How can you use your gifts to help others?**

Once you have identified your gifts, think about how you can use them to help others ...

Turn to **PAGE 28**. This page introduces the session's virtues, which are Honesty and Bravery. Read the page together. We will think more about these virtues later in the session.

Look at **PAGES 30-31** where the Bible story about the Garden of Eden is told. You will notice a large blank space on page 31. This space is where you can write or draw thoughts which come to you as the story is read.

Read the story together, the children underlining (in pencil) words that stand out for them. Begin to do 'Bible Journaling' in the space provided. Finish off designs and add colour later.

Turn to **PAGE 32**. Read through what it says about Jesus healing our friendship with God when we have damaged it through our sins.

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. How do we damage our friendships with other people?**

Some answers may be: we get angry or irritated by others; we don't listen to others; we ignore them; etc.

**2. How do we damage our friendship with God?**

We don't listen to God; we hurt other people; we damage God's beautiful world; etc.

**3. How do we become friends with others again?**

We go and speak to our friend and, if we are responsible for damaging our friendship, we say sorry for the way that we have treated them and we promise to try and behave better in the future.

#### 4. How do we become friends with God again?

We go to speak to God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). We tell God what we have done wrong by confessing our sins; we say that we are truly sorry (by making an Act of Contrition). We do the penance which the priest gives us: we do something to show that we are truly sorry, to make up for our sins and to try to start our life afresh. The penance may be a prayer or a simple act of kindness.

Complete the activity on **PAGE 33**. To do this it may help you to think about the difference between a 'sin' and making a 'mistake':

When we do something wrong on purpose, we call that a **SIN**. Sometimes we do something wrong and we don't mean to do it, or we don't understand that it is wrong: we call that making a **MISTAKE**.

There is no need to confess our mistakes: we only confess our sins – those times that we do something wrong **on purpose**.

Here are some suggestions which will help you to complete this activity:

**Chloe** takes the phone on purpose: she commits a **sin**.  
Even though she feels bad, Chloe still steals the phone.

**Lola** commits a **sin**.  
Lola knows that her friend is upset and deliberately adds to her friend's distress.

**Marc** makes a **mistake**.  
Marc is too young to know the difference between doing something deliberately and something accidentally.

**Alex** commits a **sin**.  
Alex pretends that he has not dropped his aunt's iPad **but** then he does own up and confesses what he has done.

**Lindsay** makes a **mistake**: she does not mean to do wrong.

**Jovan** makes a **mistake** (or has he also sinned?).  
Jovan does not mean to hurt anyone, but he does lash out in anger (or is his anger justified because of the nasty things which are being said?).

Turn to **PAGE 34**. Read this page and talk together about the questions at the end of the page. Here are some suggestions which may help you to answer these questions:

### **Have I made good choices today?**

#### **1. Have I loved God with all my heart and grown in friendship with Him?**

The **first four** bullet points on **page 48** may help to give you some ideas to answer this question. Some good choices may be: taking time to pray; thinking about how God is asking me to be the best I can be today; etc.

#### **2. Have I loved other people as I should or have I hurt anyone?**

**Page 48** (from the **5<sup>th</sup> bullet point** onwards) may help you with answers. Many of these points speak of the bad choices that we have made (e.g. getting angry; telling lies; refusing to help). You may like to read out the bullet points and **think** about whether you have made any bad choices – but, instead of sharing these, **share good choices** that you have made (e.g. you may have made friends with someone you've fallen out with; you may have helped others; etc.).

Read **page 35** together. It tells how Ryan was tempted and made some bad choices. Here are some suggestions to help you to answer the question at the end of the page:

#### **What choices has Ryan been faced with and what has he done that is wrong?**

Ryan was very tempted by the chocolate cake. He could have chosen to resist taking some of the cake or could have asked Grandpa if he could have some. Instead, he deliberately took some of the cake without thinking who it had been made for and how much hard work had gone into its baking.

Ryan made a second bad choice by not owning up (and not being BRAVE and HONEST) about what he had done when Grandpa asked him about taking the cake. He made this bad choice worse by suggesting that his sister had taken the cake ("It must have been Jess!" he said).

Turn to **PAGE 36**. On this page there are suggestions for some activities to do before you meet to look at Session 3. Read through this page and ask for help if you are not sure what to do.

On **PAGE 37** 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: ***Lord Jesus: my guardian and my guide***
- 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 ***Hail Mary***) which you will find written out on the right-hand column of page 37.

Stick the 'Honesty & Bravery' sticker onto your sticker chart to show that you have completed this second session.