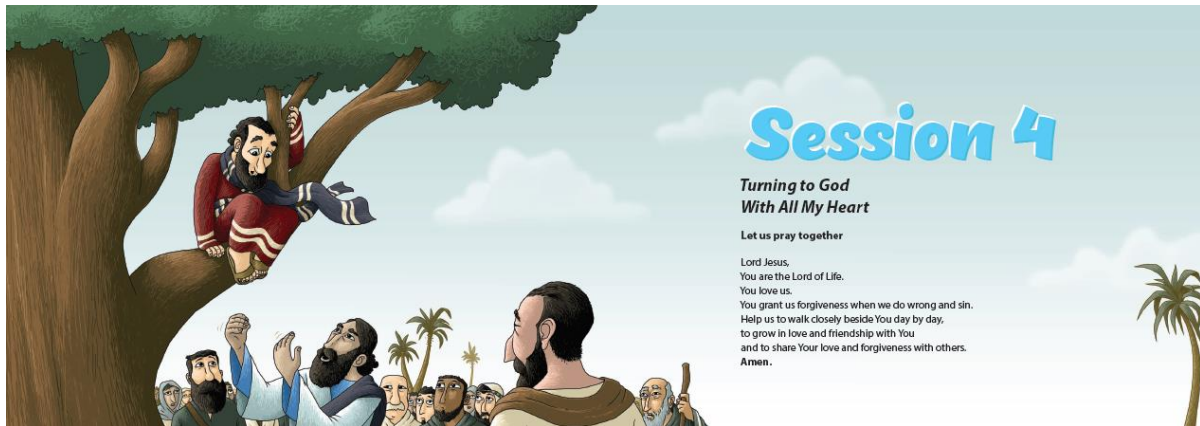


Heart Speaks to Heart: The Gift of Reconciliation

Exploring Session 4 Together



Turn to **PAGE 52** in the *Heart Speaks to Heart* book. There you will see a picture of Jesus trying to encourage Zacchaeus to come down from a tree. Take a few moments to look at the picture. What do you notice?

Opposite the picture on **PAGE 53** is the opening prayer. Pray this prayer together.

On **PAGES 54-55** there is a conversation between Grandpa and the twins. Read through their dialogue. Read the questions at the bottom of page 55 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; making an Examination of Conscience; reading the *Max and Droogo* story; taking time to pray; etc.

How are you feeling as the big day of your First Reconciliation approaches?

A similar question was asked in Session 1. If you have been recording your answers, look back through your Reflection Book to see what answers about your feelings you gave then. You may still be feeling as you did then - perhaps nervous or excited!

What will help you to prepare well for your First Reconciliation?

Answers may include: a thorough Examination of Conscience; knowing exactly what to do and say during the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (help with this is given later in the session on pages 64-65).

Turn to **PAGE 56**. This page introduces the session's virtues, which are Friendship and Respect. Read the page together. We will think more about these virtues later in the session.

Look at **PAGES 58-59** where the story of the meeting between Jesus and Zacchaeus is told. You will notice large blank spaces on these pages. These spaces are 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 60**. Read through what it says about how we may become friends again when we've damaged our friendship. At the bottom of the page there are some questions. Talk together about these questions. Here are some suggestions to help you to answer them:

1. How do we show respect for other people?

Some suggestions for answers include: by listening carefully to what other people say; by treating others with kindness; by not ignoring anyone or saying bad things about them.

2. How do we show respect for Creation?

Answers may include: by learning about plants and animals and how we may best care for them; by learning about what damages Creation and playing our part to put an end to that damage.

3. How do we show respect for God?

Answers may include: by taking time to listen to God in prayer; by taking time to be with God in church, especially at Holy Mass; by speaking of God only in a good way.

4. Our sins damage our friendship with God. How do we become friends with God again?

The most important way is by confessing our sins, saying sorry and joyfully doing our penance as we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

On the opposite page (**page 61**) Jess gets angry with Ryan. Read through this story and talk together about the question at the bottom of the page (suggestions for answers are given below):

What should you do when you know that you have hurt someone?

Answers may include: speak to the person; admit what you have done; promise not to do it again; say sorry; ask for forgiveness.

Turn to **PAGE 62**. Read through this page together. It tells you the various steps we go through to make our Confession and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

There are some difficult words on this page: to help you to understand these words, do the activity on **PAGE 63** together.

Here are the answers for matching 1-5 with A-E:

1. D
2. C
3. A
4. E
5. B

At the bottom of the page you are asked to write out the meaning of the words. Using the wordings on page 62, you may come up with something like the following:

1. An **Examination of Conscience** is a period of time that we take to reflect on what we have done wrong and on the sins that we have committed.
2. **Confession** is admitting our sins and telling them to the priest.
3. **Penance** is showing that we are sorry and making up for our sins.

4. Contrition is feeling sorry because we have sinned and saying sorry for our sins.

5. Absolution is being forgiven by God and being set free from our sins.

Turn to **PAGES 64-65**. Read through these pages together. These pages tell the children what they need to do to make their First Confession.

A card called *How to Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation* is available online for you to download. The card gives more details about what we need to do to make our Confession. Try and learn the words that you have to say off by heart.

Turn to **PAGE 66**. On this page there are suggestions for some activities to do before you meet to look at Session 5. Read through this page together and ask for help if you are not sure what to do.

On **PAGE 67** 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: ***O my God: God of love and mercy***
- 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 final prayer (the ***O my God***) which you will find written out on the right-hand column of page 67. Pray this prayer three times together. Learn this prayer off by heart to say as your Act of Contrition when you make your Confession.

Stick the 'Friendship & Respect' sticker onto your sticker chart to show that you have completed this fourth session.