

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Session 1 – God Is Our Loving Father

OBJECTIVES

- God is our loving Father who created all things good.
- God creates man & woman in his image & likeness so he can share his life w/us.
- Satan tempted A&E to not trust in God's love for them.
 - Adam & Eve disobeyed God's command.
- Because of Adam & Eve's disobedience, we all suffer the consequences of Original Sin,
 - which includes our fallen nature & a broken r-ship w/God.
- Because of His love for us, God promised to send a savior to restore our friendship w/Him.

KEY WORDS

1. **Eternal** – Having no beginning & no end.
2. **Image & Likeness of God** – The words the Bible uses to describe how God created man & woman as his sons & daughters with intellect & free will so that we can know him, love him & share in his friendship.
3. **Soul** – The invisible spirit of a human person that gives the body life and will never die.
4. **Angels** – Created spirits who have intellect and free will, but who do not have bodies.
5. **Tempted** – To be attracted to disobey God or do what we know is wrong.
6. **Savior** – One who saves or delivers another from harm. Jesus Christ saves us from sin & reconciles us to God.
7. **Reconcile** – To restore or to fix a broken relationship.
8. **Original Sin** – Our fallen state & the broken relationship with God we inherit as a result of Adam& Eve's 1st sin.
9. **Sin** – When we disobey God by choosing what we want instead of what God wants for us.
10. **Free Will** – The gift of choosing whether to love & serve God or not.

Memory Verse

Genesis 1:27

- “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

Key Points

1. God created everything that exists, and his creation is good.
2. God created man & woman in his image & likeness.
 - We are created for friendship with God – this is the only way to be truly happy.
3. God placed the 1st couple, Adam & Eve, in the Garden of Eden to live in his friendship.
 - But the devil tempted them, and they disobeyed God's command and sinned.
4. Adam & Eve's sin brought suffering & death into the world.
 - Every person to be born since has a fallen nature and a broken relationship with God.
5. God promised Adam & Eve that he would send a savior to fix the brokenness from sin.
 - The savior would be God's own Son, Jesus.
 - This is the beginning of the story of salvation history – God's plan to reconcile the world to himself.

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Let's Watch – God Wants You to Be Happy

- God is the creator of everything that exists.
 - God created us out of love & in his image & likeness so we could have friendship with him.
 - When we sin, God wants to forgive us & restore our relationship with him.
1. What does it mean that God loves us?
 - **God wants what is best for us.**
 - **God wants to have a relationship with us.**
 2. Can you think of a time when you felt God's great love for you?
Some possible answers:
 - **through the beautiful things that God created for us**
 - **through the love of our parents or siblings or a friend**
 3. When we sin, what does God want for us?
 - **God wants to forgive us ours sin & restore our friendship with him.**

Let's Read God's Word – In His Image and Likeness

- God is eternal.
 - God created the world, and it was good.
 - God created Adam & Eve to share in his love & friendship.
 - God rested on the 7th day to invite all of creation to share in his life & friendship.
1. What does it mean to you that you are created in God's image and likeness?
 - **We are sons & daughters of God & he wants to have a loving relationship with us.**
 - **We have intelligence & free will so that we can choose to love him in return.**
 2. What does it mean that God is eternal?
 - **God has no beginning & no end.**
 - **God always has been and he always will be.**
 3. Why did God create the first man and the first woman?
 - **He created them to share in his love and friendship.**
 4. Why did God rest on the seventh day?
 - **His creation was complete.**
 - **He wanted all of creation to share in his love and friendship.**

Let's Learn About Our Faith – In the Garden

- Each person has an invisible soul, which gives us life and will never die.
- God created the angels to be his messengers & helpers.
- God gave us free will.
- As a result of Adam & Eve's sin in the garden each of us suffer the effects of original Sin, which includes a fallen nature & a broken relationship with God.
- Because of his love for us, God promised to send a savior to reconcile the world to himself.

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

1. How can you show your love for God and appreciate the goodness of his creation?
 - **take time to pray go to Mass receive the sacraments**
 - **treat other people & all of God’s creation with love and respect.**
2. What is your soul?
 - **The invisible spirit that gives me life and will never die.**
3. What does God want for us?
 - **to be happy**
 - **to know how much he loves us**
 - **to share in his love**
 - **to love him in return**
4. What promise did God make after Adam & Eve sinned?
 - **to send a savior**
 - **to reconcile the world to himself &**
 - **to fix what sin had broken.**

Did You Know – Angels

- God created angels with free will – and Lucifer & other angels were thrown out of heaven.
 - Satan & his demons try to ruin God’s plans & tempt us to disobey God.
1. What are angels?
 - **Spirits created by God who have intellect & free will, but who do not have bodies.**
 - **Good angels are God’s messengers & helpers.**
 - **Bad angels are called demons.**
 2. Who is Lucifer?
 - **Satan or the Devil**
 - **He refused to serve God and bad angels threw him & his friends out of Heaven.**
 - **They try to ruin God’s plans & tempt us to disobey God.**
 3. What does your Guardian angel look like?

Let’s Do Activities

- God is our loving Father who created all things good.
- God created man & woman in his image & likeness so he could share his life with us.

In the Garden: **Guardian Angel, Creation, Free Will, Eternal, Sin, Garden, Jesus, Image, Likeness**
Image & Likeness: **love, service, thinking of others, sharing, etc.**

Let’s Recall & Reflect

1. What kinds of things do your parents teach you so that you will be safe & happy?
 - **don’t play in the street, don’t go somewhere without asking your parents, etc.**
 - **when God or our parents say “don’t do this,” it is because they don’t want us to get hurt.**
2. What does it mean to say we have free will? What are some ways that you use your free will every day?
 - **We make our own choices - God does not make our choices for us.**
 - **pick out clothes to wear, cheat on your school work, listen to your parents, etc.**

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Story of a Saint – St. Francis of Assisi

- St. Francis followed God’s call to serve him even when his family & friends made fun of him.
 - He is known for his great love of animals & nature, as he saw God’s love in all of creation.
1. St. Francis obeyed God. What are some ways that we can obey God in our own lives?
 - **God wants us to obey our parents, so when we obey them we obey him.**
 - **be kind to others around us to reflect his image in the world.**
 - **help take care of our world to be good stewards of creation.**
 2. St. Francis loved God’s creation because its beauty showed God’s love & goodness. How can we show our love for God’s creation?
 - **Thank God for his beautiful creation.**
 - **be kind to animals & take good care of our pets.**
 - **Try not to use more than we need or anything ... pick up litter ... recycle.**
 3. When St. Francis obeyed God, many of his friends & family made fun of him. How do you think this made him feel? Why do you think he kept on obeying God even when it was hard?
 - **It might have hurt his feelings & made him feel sad.**
 - **Maybe he was sad because they didn’t want to join him in serving God.**
 - **He obeyed God anyway because he knew it was the right thing to do.**
 - **He loved God more than anything else.**
 - **He trusted that God knew what would make him really happy.**

Let’s Read a Story – The Birthday Gifts

- Nick & Sam give in to the temptation to sneak into their parents’ closet & look at their birthday gifts before they receive them.
 - When they accidentally break Sam’s present, their Mom discovers what they have done.
1. How is this like the story of Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden?
 - **Adam & Eve disobeyed God to do what they wanted.**
 - **Their sin damaged their relationship with God & brought sin & death into the world.**
 - **Nick & Samantha disobeyed their mother to do what they wanted (to peek at their gifts).**
 - **Because of this, they broke the ballerina, which could not be repaired.**
 2. Nick & Samantha were sorry for what they had done. Is it possible for them to repair the damage to the broken ballerina? How is this like sin?
 - **No, you cannot fully repair the broken ballerina – even if it was glued together, it will never be the same.**
 - **We cannot repair the damage caused by our sin.**
 - **That is why we need Jesus Christ to save us from our sins.**
 - **Jesus can forgive our sins and make us new.**
 3. What would you do if you were Mrs. Perry?
 - **be sad that this special gift would not be a surprise and that it was now broken**
 - **forgive Nick and Samantha because you love them very much.**
 - **give Nick and Sam an appropriate punishment.**

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Session 2 – God Reveals His Saving Plan

OBJECTIVES

1. After the Fall, God begins his loving plan of salvation.
2. Starting w/Abraham, God begins to form a Chosen People.
3. God makes covenants with his people that show them his great love.
4. After freeing his people from slavery,
 - God gives Moses the 10 Commandments to show us how to live happily.
5. The Old Testament prepares us for the coming of Jesus.

KEY WORDS

1. **1st Commandment** – I am the Lord your God: You shall not have strange gods before me.
2. **2nd Commandment** – You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. **3rd Commandment** – Remember to keep holy the Lord’s day.
4. **4th Commandment** – Honor your father & your mother.
5. **5th Commandment** – You shall not kill.
6. **6th Commandment** – You shall not commit adultery.
7. **7th Commandment** – You shall not steal.
8. **8th Commandment** – You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. **9th Commandment** – You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.
10. **10th Commandment** – You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.
11. **Chosen People** – God chose the people of Israel to share his love with the world.
12. **Covenant** – A sacred relationship with God that makes us part of God’s family.
13. **Ten Commandments** – The 10 laws given by God to Moses
 - that show us how to live as a part of God’s family.
14. **Salvation** – When God repairs our relationship with him that was broken by sin.
15. **Bible** – The Word of God, written down by human authors inspired by the Holy Spirit;
 - it tells the story of God’s love & his plan of salvation.
16. **Old Testament** – The 1st part of the Bible,
 - which tells the story of God’s people before God sent his Son, Jesus.

Memory Verse

Matthew 22:37-38

- “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment.”

Key Points

1. After the Fall, God begins his loving plan of salvation:
 - to bring everyone back into friendship with him.
2. Starting with Abraham, God begins to form his Chosen People.
3. God makes covenants with his people to show them his great love.
4. God gives Moses the 10 Commandments to show us how to live.
5. The Old Testament prepares us for the coming of Jesus.

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Let's Watch – Rules Aren't Bad

- God gives us his commandments so we can be safe & happy.
 - God wants to forgive us when we sin.
 - God has promised that he will always be with us and never leave us.
1. What do we need to do to receive God's forgiveness?
 - **Ask and be truly sorry for our sins.**
 - **God allows us to speak with him in this way in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**
 2. Why do you think we have rules? What are some rules that make you safe & keep you happy?
 - **Rules are meant to keep us safe & happy, not to ruin our fun time.**
 - **don't play in the street, don't play with matches, eat healthy food, etc.**
 3. How is God like a loving Father to us?
 - **God create us, he loves us, and only wants what is best for us.**
 - **He will always be with us & never leave us.**

Let's Read God's Word – The 10 Commandments

- From the very beginning, God had a plan to reconcile his people to himself.
 - The Israelites are God's Chosen people.
 - God sent Moses to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.
 - God made a covenant with Israel at Mount Sinai.
 - God gave Israel the 10 Commandments to teach them how to live as part of his family.
 - The 10 Commandments are the laws of God's covenant.
1. How can you listen to God and trust in his promises better?
 - **spend some time in prayer or reading the Bible or pray before bed at night.**
 - **Ask parents, teachers, or priest for help or advice.**
 2. What is a covenant?
 - **a sacred relationship with God that makes us part of God's family.**
 3. Why did God give Israel the Ten Commandments?
 - **Israel did not know how to live as part of God's family – because they had been in Egypt a long time.**
 - **The 10 C are God's fatherly instruction for living in God's family.**
 4. How can the commandments be split into 2 parts based on showing their love?
 - **The 1st 3 teach us how to love God**
 - **The last 7 teach us how to love each other.**

Let's Learn About Our Faith – God Makes Us Part of His Family

- God's plan of salvation is his plan to bring everyone back into friendship with him.
- God's covenant shows his great love for his people.
- God made a covenant with the Israelites, the descend. of Abraham, to make them his Chosen People.
- The 10 Commandments are the laws of God's covenant.
- God's laws teach us how to love God and love each other.
- The Old Testament prepares us for the coming of Jesus.

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

1. How do you show your love to your father & mother? Your brothers & sisters?
Some possible answers:
 - helping with the dishes, cleaning their bedrooms, remembering to say thank you
 - Sharing with or helping a sibling
2. What is God's plan of salvation?
 - to bring everyone back into friendship with him.
3. Who are God's Chosen People in the Old Testament?
 - Israelites – the descendants of Abraham.
4. What are the laws of God's covenant? What do they teach us?
 - The 10 Commandments: to love God & to love each other

Did You Know – What's in a Name?

- God changed Abram & Sarai's name and gave them a new mission.
1. What did Abram & Sarai's original names mean?
 - exalted father & princess
 2. Who are their new names and what do they mean?
 - Abraham – father of a multitude
 - Sarah – princess, mother of kings.
 3. What is the name of their son?
 - Isaac - laughter

Let's Do Activities

- God gives Moses the 10 Commandments to show us how to live.
- After the Fall, God begins his loving plan of salvation.
- Starting with Abraham, God begins to form a Chosen People.
- God makes covenants with his people that show them his great love.
- God gives Moses the 10 Commandments to show us how to live.
- The Old Testament prepares us for the coming of Jesus.

The 10 Commandments

Love of God

- I am the Lord your God: You shall not have strange gods before me.
- You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.

Love of Neighbor

- Honor your father & your mother.
- You shall not kill.
- You shall not commit adultery.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

God Saves His Children: Adam & Eve ... Abraham ... Moses ... Jesus

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Let's Recall & Reflect

1. What are some ways your family helps you to be happy? What things do you do to help the people in your family to be happy?
 - **Our parents take care of us – give us and teach us what we need.**
 - **Our siblings share and play with us.**
 - **We do chores, obey, be kind, share, play with others.**
2. Why did God give his Chosen People the 10 Commandments?
 - **to teach his Chosen People how to live as part of his family.**

Story of a Saint – St. Therese of Lisieux

- St. Therese teaches us to do little things for Jesus & for others with great love.
1. Why did Therese want to be a nun? How do you think she felt when she got her wish?
 - **because she loved God so much she wanted to give her whole life to him.**
 - **happy, excited, a little nervous**
 2. Becoming a saint seemed like a really hard thing to Therese. What is something that you want to do that seems really hard?
 - **always be nice to our siblings – but we lose patience**
 - **do better in school or at a sport – but that takes a lot of hard work**
 - **God helped Therese and he will help you do anything he is calling you to do.**
 3. St. Therese found that she didn't have to do big, impressive things to show her love. She could do little things with great love. What are some little things you can do with great love for Jesus & for others?
 - **listen to your parents right away, be kind to someone at school**
 - **give some of your clothes or toys to the poor,**
 - **read to a sibling, help around the house**

Let's Read a Story - Rules

- Nick is unhappy that he has a consequence for breaking a family rule. His older brother, Andrew, helps him see that it is important.
1. Why does Nick say he doesn't like rules? Do you agree with Nick?
 - **Nick doesn't like the consequences for breaking the rules.**
 - **Nick thinks rules just tell you that you have to do things you don't like & you can't do things you want to do.**
 2. How does Nick feel when Andrew pretends there are no rules? Do you think it would be a good idea not to have any rules?
 - **Nick doesn't like it.**
 - **If we can do anything we want without worrying about other people, then other people can do anything they want without thinking about us!**
 3. How are the family rules at Nick's house like God's 10 Commandments?
 - **they help everyone love each other & make sure everyone can be happy & safe.**

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Session 3 – Jesus Comes to Save Us

OBJECTIVES

1. God the Father sent his Son to save us.
2. The Incarnation: The Son of God became man to save us from our sin
3. Jesus establishes the Church as the Kingdom of God on earth.
4. Jesus saves us from our sins through his Suffering, Death & Resurrection.

KEY WORDS

1. **Parables** – Stories Jesus told to teach people about God’s kingdom & how we are to live in it.
2. **Repent** – To turn toward God & away from sin with the desire to change one’s life.
3. **Blessed Trinity** – The mystery of 1 God in 3 Persons: Father, Son, & Holy Spirit.
4. **Incarnation** – The mystery that the Son of God became man.
5. **Messiah** – A Hebrew word meaning God’s Anointed One.
6. **The church** – The Kingdom of God on earth established by Jesus Christ on the foundation of the Apostles.
7. **Apostles** – The 12 men Jesus called to be the leaders of his Church.
8. **Paschal Mystery** – Christ’s work of redemption, made possible by his Passion, Death, Resurrection, & Ascension into Heaven.

Memory Verse

John 10:27

- “My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me”

Key Points

1. When we sin, we run away from God,
 - but he always comes looking for us to bring us back home to him.
2. God the Father sends his Son to save us.
3. MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION - The Son of God became man.
 - Jesus is both fully God and fully human.
4. Jesus established the Church as the Kingdom of God on earth.
 - he chose 12 Apostles to be the leaders of his Church.
5. PASCHAL MYSTERY - The event of Jesus’ Suffering, Death, Resurrection, & Ascension

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Let's Watch – Jesus: The Greatest Superhero

- The Bible tells us the greatest story ever – the story of salvation.
 - Jesus is our true hero – he saves us from our sins.
 - We respond to Jesus by believing in him and loving him.
1. Do you ever read the Bible? What are some of the stories you know from the Bible?
 - **Encourage those who have not read the Bible to do so.**
 - **Noah, Moses, Jesus's miracle stories.**
 2. How is Jesus our true hero?
 - **He gave his life for us to save us from our sins.**
 3. How do we respond to what he has done for us?
 - **by believing in him & by loving him.**
 - **We do this through prayer, going to Mass, & obeying his teaching & commandments**

Let's Read God's Word – The Good Shepherd

- God takes care of us like a good shepherd.
 - When we sin, we run away from God.
 - God always comes looking for us to bring us back home to him.
 - All of Heaven rejoices when we turn back to God.
1. How do you feel when you lose something or get lost yourself? How do you feel when what was lost is then found?
 - **scared & like crying**
 - **relieved!**
 2. Why do you think the sheep wandered away? Why did the shepherd leave his other sheep & look for the 1 lost sheep?
 - **It wasn't being careful or paying attention, or ran away on purpose.**
 - **It was important to him – he didn't want to lose even one of his sheep.**
 3. How did the shepherd feel when he found his lost sheep: How do you know?
 - **very happy – he rejoiced with his neighbors.**
 4. Imagine you are the lost sheep. How do you feel when you realize you are far away from your shepherd? How do you feel when your shepherd finds you?
 - **scared, sorry, worried the shepherd will be angry, wish you were home.**
 - **happy & relieved – especially when you see the shepherd isn't angry**

Let's Learn About Our Faith – The Story of the Messiah

- The Son of God became man. Jesus is both fully God & fully man. This is the mystery of the Incarnation.
- Mary is the perfect example of how to love and obey God.
- Jesus is the Messiah, god's anointed one.
- The church is the Kingdom of God on earth.
- Jesus chose twelve Apostles to be leaders of his church.
- The events of Jesus' Suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension are called the Paschal Mystery.

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

1. What stories from Jesus' life do you know? What can you learn from his life?
 - **Jesus' birth, baptism, miracles, death**
 - **We learn how to love from Jesus' life.**
2. Why did God send his Son? What does the name "Jesus" mean?
 - **God sent his Son to save us because God loves us so much.**
 - **"God Saves"**
3. What did Jesus do for the 3 years before he died on the Cross? What did his words and actions say about who he is?
 - **teaching people about God's love, healing the sick, forgiving sinners, performing miracles.**
 - **He was the Messiah, the anointed one of God & the true king of Israel.**
4. What is another name for the Kingdom of God on earth? Who did Jesus choose to be leaders in his kingdom?
 - **The Church – the Kingdom of God on earth**
 - **Jesus chose the 12 Apostles to lead his Church.**

Did You Know? – The Blessed Trinity

- The trinity is one of the great mysteries of our Faith because it means that even within God himself there is love.
1. What does the "TRI" in trinity mean?
 - **3, like "tri" in triangle means 3 sides.**

Did You Know? – Lamb of God

Jesus is the new Passover Lamb, who's sacrifice on the Cross saves us from our sins.
Paschal (Passover) Mystery – Jesus' passion, Death, Resurrection & Ascension into Heaven.

1. Why do we call Jesus the Lamb of God?
 - **Jesus is the new Passover Lamb, who's sacrifice on the Cross saves us from our sins.**
2. What does Paschal mean?
 - **from the Hebrew word for Passover.**
3. What is the Paschal Mystery?
 - **Jesus' Passion, Death, Resurrection & Ascension into heaven.**

Let's Do Activities

Be a Code Breaker: God Saves

Know that God the Father sends his Son to save us.

Understand that Jesus saves us from our sins through his Death & Resurrection.

Jesus Finds the Lost Sheep: We are so important to Jesus that he will always search for us.

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Let's Recall & Reflect

1. How do you think the shepherd felt when he realized that one of his sheep was missing? What does this story teach us about the love and mercy of Jesus?
 - **sad or worried or frustrated – the desire to find it.**
 - **Jesus loves us so much he will always come looking for us when we run away from him in sin.**
2. What was Mary's "yes" to God? What can you do to follow her ex. of trusting & saying "yes" to God?
 - **God asked Mary to be the mother of his Son Jesus.**
 - **Obey our parents & teachers, be kind & helpful to people, spend time w/God in prayer.**

Story of a Saint – St. Jose Sanchez Del Rio

- St. Jose was 15 when he was martyred proclaiming the goodness of God & forgiving those who hurt him.
1. What do you want to be when you grow up? Why do you think Jose wanted to be a martyr?
 - **teacher, doctor, parent, priest, religious sister, firefighter, police officer, veterinarian.**
 - **Jose loved God & wanted to give God everything – even his own life.**
 - **Maybe he wanted to be brave & strong in the Faith like other martyrs were.**
 2. Why do you think Jose was so brave and bold in prison? Why do you think he forgave the people who hurt him?
 - **Jose trusted in God – he knew that his strength came from God & was never alone.**
 - **He trusted God would take care of him, no matter what.**
 - **He forgave because he knew that God wanted him to – He forgave just like Jesus forgave.**
 3. What are some ways that you might need to be brave & stand up for what you know is true?
 - **if your friends want you to do something that you know is wrong.**
 - **if you see someone else doing something wrong – like bullying.**

Let's Read a Story – The Deep End

- When Sam doesn't listen to her dad, she ends up in a very dangerous situation. But her dad comes to her rescue and saves her, just like Jesus saves each of us.
1. How can our stubbornness get in the way of doing what is right?
 - **Stubborn – wanting to have our own way – no matter what.**
 - **Having our own way becomes more important than doing what is right.**
 - **We should do what is right – not what we want.**
 2. How is Mr. Perry like Jesus in the parable of the Lost Sheep?
 - **Mr. Perry came back to look for Sam – and rescued her from drowning.**
 - **Both saved someone in danger.**
 - **Both went looking – did not leave them out alone.**
 3. What does this tell us about God's great love for each one of us?
 - **God's love is even greater than the love of a human father for his child.**
 - **God will always rescue us when we call on him.**
 - **He wants to help us & reconcile us to himself.**
 - **Nothing can change his love for us.**

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Session 4 – The Church Continues

OBJECTIVES

1. Jesus establishes the Church to continue his mission on earth.
2. Jesus gave his Church the 7 sacraments.
 - Jesus continues to share his life with us through the sacraments.
3. Through Baptism we die to our sins and rise to new life in Christ.
4. Baptism makes us part of God's family and sharers in Christ's saving mission.

KEY WORDS

1. **Christ** – A Greek word meaning God's Anointed One (another word for Messiah).
2. **New Covenant** – The new & eternal covenant established through Jesus' Death & Resurrection
 - to invite everyone back into God's family &
 - make it possible for us to live forever with him in Heaven.
3. **Grace** – A special gift from God through which God shares his own life with us.
4. **Baptism** – The 1st sacrament that initiates us into the Christian life;
 - it forgives our sins,
 - gives us sanctifying grace,
 - and makes us members of God's family, the church.
5. **Sacraments of Initiation** – The 3 sacraments that make us part of the Church:
 - Baptism, Confirmation, & the Holy Eucharist.
6. **Sacraments of Healing** – The 2 sacraments that heal our souls: Reconciliation & Anointing of the Sick.
7. **Sacraments of Service** – The 2 sacraments that help us serve God & his Church:
 - Matrimony (marriage) & Holy Orders (the priesthood).
8. **Sanctifying Grace** – The gift of God's own divine life in us that makes us holy.
9. **Actual Grace** – God's gift to help us in each moment to love God and make the right choices.

Memory Verse

John 6:51

- "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever."

Key Points

1. Jesus founded the Church to continue his saving mission.
2. Jesus gave the Church the 7 sacraments,
 - which convey his grace,
 - i. the gift of God sharing his own life with us.
3. The Apostles are the foundation stones of Jesus' kingdom, the Church.
4. Jesus chose Simon to be the leader of the Apostles,
 - gave him the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven, and
 - changed his name to Peter.
5. The 1st sacrament we receive is Baptism, in which
 - we die to sin and are raised to new life in Christ and
 - become members of the Church.

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Let's Watch –God is Here with Us

- Jesus instituted the Church to be the sign of God's love in the world.
 - The sacraments are real signs of God's love so we can really know his love.
 - Sacraments give us grace so that we can share in God's life.
1. What are some ways you experience God's love in your life?
 - **nature, our parents & family, good things in our lives**
 2. How do the sacraments make God's love real in our lives?
 - **God gives us his love & grace through his sacraments.**
 - **The sacramental signs make real for us how God is loving & saving us.**
 3. What happens in the Sacrament of Reconciliation when the priest says your sins are forgiven?
 - **Jesus forgives your sins - the priest is acting in the Person of Christ the Head.**

Let's Read God's Word – Foundation Stones

- Jesus chose 12 Apostles to help him with his ministry of teaching and healing.
 - The Apostles were Jesus' special followers and friends.
 - The Apostles are the foundation stones of Jesus' kingdom, the Church.
 - Jesus chose Simon to be the leader of the Apostles, and he changed his name to Peter.
 - Jesus gave Peter the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - When Jesus ascended to Heaven, he left the Apostles to lead his Church on earth,
 - with Peter as the leader of the Apostles and the 1st pope.
1. How would you describe who Jesus is?
 - **the Son of God who became man to save us from our sins.**
 - **teaches us the truth about God and how we should live.**
 2. Who were the Apostles? How many of them were there?
 - **Jesus' chosen friends & followers.**
 - **They spent 3 years learning from Jesus and helping him with his teaching & healing.**
 - **12 – they are the foundation stones of the Church – the 1st leaders of the Church.**
 3. When God gives someone a new name, it means that they have a new and special job. What new name did Jesus give to Simon? What was Simon's special job?
 - **Peter – "rock"**
 - **Simon was to be the leader of the Apostles & to lead the Church > Jesus ascended.**
 4. Jesus promised his Apostles that the Church would never be defeated. How do you think this promise made them feel? How does this promise make you feel?
 - **happy & relieved.**
 - **We have hope that God will always protect his Church – no need to be afraid.**

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Let's Learn About Our Faith – Jesus Establishes the Sacraments

- Jesus' Death & Resurrection freed us from the power of sin and death.
 - Jesus established the new Covenant to invite everyone back into God's family.
 - Jesus chose his 12 Apostles to lead the Church after he ascended into Heaven.
 - Peter was the leader of the Apostles and the 1st Pope.
 - Jesus gave the Church the 7 sacraments so that he could continue to share his life with us.
 - The sacraments give us grace. Grace is the gift of God sharing his own life with us.
 - The 1st sacrament we receive is Baptism.
 - Baptism forgives our sins and heals our broken relationship with God.
 - Baptism makes us members of the church.
 - Through Baptism, we share in the saving mission of Christ.
1. Have you ever been to a Baptism? What happened when you were there?
 - **anointed the baby with oil, poured water over the baby's forehead, placed a white cloth on the baby, lit a candle**
 2. What was Jesus' mission on earth? What did he do to accomplish this mission?
 - **to save us from our sins & bring us back into friendship with God.**
 - **He saved us from the power of sin & death through his Death & Resurrection.**
 - **He established the New Covenant to invite people back into God's family & friendship.**
 3. Who started the Church? What is the mission of the Church?
 - **Jesus found the Church – he trusted his Apostles to lead it after him.**
 - **Mission – to continue Christ's mission of love & forgiveness.**
 4. How many sacraments are there? Why did Jesus give us the sacraments?
 - **7**
 - **so he could share his life with us after he was gone – via grace – a share in God's own life.**

Did You Know? – The Seven Sacraments

- When each sacrament is celebrated, it gives us the grace belonging to that sacrament.
 - It produces fruit in us if we are prepared to receive these graces.
1. What are the Sacraments of Healing?
 - **Reconciliation & Anointing of the Sick.**

Did You Know? – Grace

- Sanctifying grace is the gift of God's own divine life in us.
 - Actual grace is the gift of God that helps us to choose good instead of evil.
1. What is sanctifying grace?
 - **the gift of God's own divine life in us.**
 2. What is actual grace?
 - **God's gift to help us in each moment to love God and make the right choices.**

Let's Do Activities

Christ Gives Us the Church: 1, 6, 5, 3, 4, 2 Jesus establishes the church to continue his mission on earth.

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Let's Recall & Reflect

1. How do you experience the love of Jesus in the Church?
 - **through scripture readings at Mass, being included in the parish community**
 - **learning in religious education, grace received through Baptism, friends at church**
2. Baptism makes us members of the Church, and so we share in Jesus' saving mission, too. What are some ways you can share God's love with other people?
 - **forgiving someone who is unkind to you, being a friend to someone who is lonely**
 - **visiting someone who is sick or elderly, donating some of your toys/books/clothes**
 - **feeding the hungry at a soup kitchen or donating to food pantry**
 - **telling someone about God's love, praying for others**
 - **Obey our parents & teachers, be kind & helpful to people, spend time w/God in prayer.**

Story of a Saint – Pope St. John Paul II

- St. John Paul II had a special love for young people.
1. Pope St. John Paul II put his love for young people into action by spending time and doing special things with them. What is 1 thing you can do this week to spend extra time with someone you love?
 - **playing with a sibling, go to the park w/ a friend, read a book w/ parent**
 - **spend extra time in prayer with God**
 2. Pope St. John Paul II loved spending time with people outdoors. How can spending time enjoying God's creation help us know how much God loves us?
 - **God's creation points us toward God – who is the source of all beauty**
 - **It helps us remember how God is always providing /taking care of us**
 - **It reminds us of how big & powerful God is.**
 - **It gives us the quiet and peace we need to think about God & talk to him in prayer.**
 3. Pope St. John Paul II's 1st message to the Church as pope was "Do not be afraid!" How is God calling you to be brave?
 - **It is hard to do the right thing when friends are doing something wrong**
 - **it is hard to be kind to someone who is not kind to you**
 - **people may tease you about your faith.**
 - **God will give you the grace to be brave.**

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Let's Read a Story – Grace

- Nick and Sam make some poor choices when they go on a hike with their family.
 - Despite these bad decisions, their parents patiently help them & take care of their needs.
1. Why did Nick and Sam choose to bring the wrong items for their hike? What were the consequences of those choices?
 - **They took what they wanted & they liked.**
 - **Sam had hurt feet from her new shoes.**
 - **Nick was very thirsty & tired b/c his pack was too heavy & he didn't have any water.**
 - **Their parents took care of their needs, even though they had made bad choices.**
 2. Why do we sometimes make bad choices? What consequences do we suffer?
 - **We may not want to listen to what someone else tells us.**
 - **We are focused on what we want.**
 - **Consequences – we end up hurting ourselves & others.**
 3. How does God help us when we make bad choices?
 - **God always offers us his forgiveness.**
 - **He never stops loving us – or says “I told you so”**
 - **We still suffer some consequences.**
 - **God can bring something good out of our bad choices.**

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Session 5 – Life in Christ

OBJECTIVES

1. God gives us his laws because he wants what is good for us.
2. Sin is a choice against loving God & neighbor.
3. Mortal sin breaks our relationship with God;
 - venial sin hurts our relationship with God, but does not break it.
4. Our conscience is God's gift that helps us to do good and avoid evil.
5. Our conscience needs to be formed according to God's Word.
6. When we sin, we must repent & ask God for forgiveness.

KEY WORDS

1. **Beatitudes** – The blessings promised by Jesus to those who live according to his teachings.
2. **Mercy** – Loving kindness & forgiveness shown to others, especially when they have hurt us.
3. **Mortal Sin** – A serious sin that separates us from God & results in the loss of sanctifying grace.
4. **Venial Sin** – A lesser sin that harms our relationship with God but does not separate us from God.
5. **Conscience** – A special voice inside us telling us what is right & wrong.
6. **Conversion** – Turning back to God after we have sinned.
7. **Contrition** – Sorrow for sin; it includes the intention not to sin again.

Memory Verse

Matthew 5:16

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Key Points

1. When we break God’s laws, we commit sin, which
 - hurts us,
 - the people around us, and
 - our relationship with God.
2. Our conscience is God’s gift to help us know the difference between right and wrong.
3. The 3 requirements for a sin to be mortal are:
 1. it is a very serious sin
 2. you know it is a serious sin when you commit it
 3. you choose to commit it of your own free will.
4. A person who is aware of having committed a mortal sin should go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation as soon as possible.
5. Venial sins hurt our relationship with God, but they do not break it.

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Let's Watch – Morality: Choosing What Is Right

God created us in his image and likeness so we have free will.

We have to choose whether to love God and others, or not.

Choosing the right thing takes practice – this is called virtue.

When we sin, God is always ready to forgive us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

1. What does it mean that we have free will? Does this mean we can do whatever we want?
 - **We are able to choose to do what is right or what is wrong.**
 - **God gave us free will so we could freely choose to love him and others.**
2. What is virtue, and why is virtue so important?
 - **the practice of doing good.**
 - **Virtue helps us to be like Jesus**
3. What should we do if we choose to sin?
 - **we should always tell God that we are sorry - and he is always ready to forgive us.**
 - **The Sacrament of Reconciliation shows us in a real way how much God loves us and forgives us, no matter what we have done.**

Let's Read God's Word – God's Blessing for His People

Jesus teaches us about the kind of life God wants us to live.

The Beatitudes are some of God's blessings for his faithful people.

1. If you were to make up a "Beatitude," what would it be?
 - **Blessed are the ... for .**
2. On the mountain, Jesus told his disciples about the kind of life that God wants us to live. Why do you think God cares about what kind of life we live?
 - **God loves us and wants us to be happy.**
3. How would you describe the kind of life that God wants us to live?
 - **a life of love for him and for other people.**
 - **He wants us to learn about him and try to do his will.**
 - **He also wants us to take care of other people.**
4. Do all of the Beatitudes sound like your idea of blessing? Why or why not?
 - **They are God's idea of blessing, not human idea of blessing.**
 - **Many are about being faithful to God even in the midst of difficulties.**

Let's Learn About Our Faith – Turning Back to God

- God's laws are all about what is best for us.
- When we break God's laws, we commit sin.
- Sin hurts us, the people around us, and our relationship with God.
- There are 2 types of sin: mortal & venial.
 - A person who is aware of having committed a mortal sin should go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation as soon as possible.
 - The 3 requirements for a sin to be a mortal sin are:
 - it is very serious sin (grave matter)

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

- you know it is a serious sin when you commit it (full knowledge)
 - you choose to commit it of your own free will (complete consent).
 - If a sin does not meet all 3 requirements for a mortal sin, then we are not guilty of mortal sin.
 - Venial sins hurt our relationship with God, but they do not break it.
 - Our conscience is God’s gift to help us know the difference between right and wrong.
 - When we realize that we have sinned, we need to tell God that we are sorry & ask for his forgiveness.
 - This is what we do in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 - “Conversion” means turning back to God after we have sinned.
 - “Contrition” means sorrow for sins, including the intention not to sin again.
1. How would you describe the difference between mortal and venial sins to someone?
 - **VENIAL – harms our relationship with God.**
 - **MORTAL – separates us from God – 3 things are required**
 2. How does sin hurt us? How might it hurt the people around us?
 - **We are choosing something that is not good for us!**
 - **It takes us further away from God’s friendship.**
 - **It hurts the people around us – we are choosing not to love our neighbor.**
 3. What are some things we can do to train our consciences to recognize right and wrong?
 - **read the Bible, pay attention in religion classes & Mass**
 - **ask questions of our parents & teachers, learn about Saints**
 4. If God knows everything, why do you think we still need to acknowledge our sins & tell him that we are sorry?
 - **He wants US to realize we have sinned.**
 - **We need to ask for his forgiveness.**

Did You Know? – Freedom

- Following God’s laws makes us free to live our lives fully and to find happiness.
1. Have you ever put something together by following the instruction manual?
 - **How did it go? Was it easy or hard? Is that a good idea?**
 2. How can having rules make you more free?
 - **If we follow those laws, we are free to live everything to the max – and not worry about getting hurt**

Let’s Do Activities

The Bee-Attitudes

God gives us his laws because he wants what is good for us.

Sin is a choice against loving God and neighbor.

The Bee-Attitudes

Mourning or sad – comfort, Peacemakers – called a child of God, Merciful – God’s mercy

Thirsty for God’s will – Satisfied, When people are mean b/c you love god – the Kingdom of Heaven

Poor in Spirit – The Kingdom of Heaven, Pure of Heart – Shall see God

Meek or Humble – The Whole Earth

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Let's Recall & Reflect

1. How do you feel when you do something wrong? How do you think God feels when we sin?
 - **sad & guilty**
 - **sad, because we are choosing not to love him**
2. The Beatitudes tell us about God's blessings for living the life he wants for us – even when that is hard to do. Which Beatitude is your favorite?
 - **what can you relate to – being sad, feeling powerless**
 - **what promised reward sounds exciting – seeing God or being called a child of God**
3. What is our conscience?
 - **a special voice inside us telling us what is right and wrong**
 - **so that we can do good & avoid evil.**
4. What is a mortal sin?
 - **a serious sin that separates us from God and results in the loss of sanctifying grace.**
 - **it breaks our relationship with God.**
5. What is a venial sin?
 - **a lesser sin that hurts our relationship with God but does not separate us from God.**
6. What does it mean to have contrition?
 - **that we are sorry for our sins & that we intend not to sin again.**
7. What is conversion?
 - **turning back to God after we have sinned.**

Story of a Saint – St. Teresa of Calcutta

God asked St. Teresa to go out into the streets of Calcutta, India, and serve the poorest of the poor.

1. Why do you think Mother Teresa worked & prayed so hard for people that no one else cared about?
 - **God asked her to.**
 - **She knew God loved them & by loving & caring for them, she was loving & serving God.**
2. Think about the Beatitudes. Name one Beatitude that Mother Teresa put into practice?
 - **poor in spirit – she lived a life of poverty**
 - **mourned over the poor**
 - **meek – she seemed powerless because she was just 1 poor sister**
 - **hungered & thirsted for righteousness – she wanted to follow God's will**
 - **merciful & pure of heart – she shared God's love & peace w/ everyone.**
3. What is 1 thing you can do to treat other people the way Jesus would treat them?
 - **love people like Mother Teresa did**
 - **comfort them when they are sad,**
 - **take care of them when they are sick / hungry**
 - **listen to them when they have something to say**
 - **share the message of God's love with them**

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Let's Read a Story – The High Road

The Christian life is filled with choices – to obey and do the right thing, or to disobey and do the wrong thing. We are tugged in both directions. Often, we confuse “what we want” with “what’s right.”

1. What do you think Nick is going to do? What do you think he should do?
 - **buy the bike from Brad’s brother right away.**
 - **Obey his mom and wait until his dad comes home.**
2. Why do you think Nick’s mom and dad care what he does with his own money?
 - **The want him to be happy.**
 - **Using it well will make Nick happy.**
 - **Wasting his money will make him disappointed about his bad decision**
3. Why does God care about the choices we make? What does God do to help us make good choices?
 - **God loves us and wants us to be happy – not to be hurt.**
 - **God helps us make good choices by giving us**
 - **his commandments,**
 - **his Church to teach us, and**
 - **our consciences to help us do good & avoid evil.**

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Session 6 – The Sacrament of Reconciliation

OBJECTIVES

1. Jesus forgives our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
2. Jesus institutes the Sacrament of Reconciliation so we can know his forgiveness & mercy:
 - "Receive the Holy Spirit.
 - If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven;
 - if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."
3. Jesus is really present & acting through the priest to forgive our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
4. The Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - forgives our sins,
 - restores sanctifying grace, &
 - gives us grace to avoid future sins.

KEY WORDS

1. **Crucified** – Put to death by nailing to a cross.
2. **Resurrected** – Raised from the dead to new life.
3. **Sacrament of Reconciliation** – The sacrament in which we are reconciled to God when our sins are forgiven after Baptism.
4. **Sacrament of Penance** – Another name for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - that points to the penance we must do to repair the damage cause by our sin.
5. **Sacrament of Confession** – Another name for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - that points to the need to confess, or tell, our sins.
6. **Sacrament of Conversion** – Another name for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - that points to our conversion, our turning back to God after we sin.
7. **Successors** – The bishops to whom the Apostles passed on their leadership of Christ's Church.

Memory Verse

Psalm 51:10

- "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit in me!"

Key Points

1. After Baptism we can still damage our friendship with God through sin.
2. Jesus gave his Holy Spirit to the Apostles so that they could forgive sins in his name.
 - Our bishops & priests today carry on Jesus' mission of forgiveness
3. Jesus is really present & working through the priest in Confession to forgive us of our sins.
4. God forgives our sins & gives us grace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
5. The Sacrament of Reconciliation heals our relationship with God & with his Church

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Let's Watch – Reconciliation: God's Awesome Gift

- Jesus' main mission is mercy – to forgive us and heal us from our sins.
 - He always wants to forgive us if we are truly sorry.
 - Jesus is really present & working through the priest to forgive us of our sins.
 - In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we know in a real way how God loves us & forgives us.
1. How is mercy the main mission of Jesus?
 - **Jesus came to show us mercy**
 - **to forgive us and to heal us from our sins**
 - **so that we can be with him in Heaven forever.**
 2. What does the Seal of Confession mean?
 - **the priest can never reveal what was confessed in the Sacrament of Reconciliation**
 3. How do we receive God's love & mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
 - **when we hear the words of Jesus forgiving us.**
 - **The priest is acting in the Person of Christ the Head.**

Let's Read God's Word – Peace Be With You

- Jesus appeared to the Apostles in the Upper Room on the evening of Easter Sunday.
 - Jesus gave his Apostles the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they could forgive sins by his authority.
 - Jesus' main mission was mercy.
 - God still forgives our sins today through our bishops and priests in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
1. How do bishops and priests carry out Jesus' command to forgive sins?
 - **They teach us about Jesus & celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism & Reconciliation.**
 2. Why were the Apostles gathered in the Upper Room on Easter Sunday?
 - **They were afraid that the people who had crucified Jesus might come after them.**
 - **Maybe they didn't know exactly what to believe about the Resurrection or what they should do next because they hadn't seen Jesus yet.**
 3. Why do you think Jesus showed the Apostles the marks of the nails and the spear?
 - **so they would know that it was really him.**
 - **Jesus really died, and he really rose from the dead.**
 4. What do the Apostles receive when Jesus breathes on them? What does this give them the power to do?
 - **The Holy Spirit.**
 - **to forgive sins.**

Let's Learn About Our Faith – God Forgives Our Sins

- After Baptism we can still damage our friendship with God through sin.
- God forgives our sins & gives us grace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also called the Sacrament of Penance, the Sacrament of Confession, and the Sacrament of Conversion.
- Only God can forgive sins.
- Jesus gave his Holy Spirit to the Apostles so that they could forgive sins in his name.
 - The bishops are the successors of the Apostles.

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

- Our bishops today carry on Jesus' mission of forgiveness.
 - In Confession it is really Jesus who forgives our sins.
 - The Sacrament of Reconciliation heals our relationship with God and with his church.
 - There is no sin that God won't forgive, if we are sorry for it.
 - The Sacrament of Reconciliation gives us grace to avoid future sins.
1. What does it mean to be reconciled to God?
 - **to have our sins forgiven – so we can have a very close relationship with God.**
 2. If Baptism forgives Original Sin, why do we need the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
 - **we sin after Baptism – and we lose or damage our friendship with God**
 3. Is there any sin that God cannot forgive? Why or why not?
 - **no sin is too big for God's forgiveness.**
 - **sin we are not sorry for – sin we do not ask God's forgiveness for.**
 - **We have to ask for his forgiveness & let him forgive us**
 - **God does not force his love and mercy on us.**
 4. Which of the names for this sacrament is your favorite?
 - **Confession ... Reconciliation ... Penance ... Conversion**

Did You Know? – Shalom

God completely heals our relationship with him & the Church – in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Everything is good & right in our souls again.

1. Have you ever said those words?
 - **at mass every Sunday?**
2. Are you looking forward to getting everything good & right in your soul again?
 - **Yes!**

Let's Do Activities

- *Jesus Heals My Heart*
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation forgives our sins, restores sanctifying grace, & gives us grace to avoid future sins. Jesus is really present & acting through the priest to forgive our sins.

Let's Recall & Reflect

1. Imagine you are with the Apostles on the evening of Easter Sunday. How would you feel while you are all hiding and waiting together?
 - **Scared of the people who killed Jesus.**
 - **Confused about whether or not to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead.**
 - **Scared when Jesus appeared – was he really alive – How did he get in the room.**
 - **stop feeling scared & feel happy & excited when Jesus said, "Peace be with you"**
2. What does God want to do for us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Why do you think this is so important to God that he made it a sacrament?
 - **give us his love & mercy.**
 - **heal all the ways sin has hurt us.**
 - **give us his peace**

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

- Being friends with God is more important than anything else
 - he doesn't want anything to keep us away from his love & friendship
 - he wants us to remember how important it is to confess our sins.
- 3. Who are the successors of the Apostles?
 - bishops
- 4. What 3 things does the Sacrament of Reconciliation do?
 - forgives our sins
 - restores sanctifying grace
 - gives us grace to avoid future sins
- 5. Who is present and acting through the priest in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
 - Jesus

Story of a Saint – St. Faustina Kowalska

Jesus, in the Divine Mercy image, appeared to St. Faustina and asked her to promote his Divine Mercy.

1. What do the rays coming out of Jesus' heart in the Divine Mercy image represent?
 - **Red & blue – God's love & mercy – which he wants to give to us**
2. Why do you think Jesus appeared to St. Faustina to give her this special message of Divine Mercy – the Bible already tells us about God's mercy?
 - **He wanted the whole world to hear it again – b/c it is so important.**
 - **We can never talk too much about God's love & mercy.**
 - **We always need to be reminded how much God loves us & wants to forgive our sins.**
3. The Divine Mercy image has the words, "Jesus, I Trust in You." What is something you can do to show that you are placing your trust in Jesus?
 - **Pray – we trust him to take care of us, or in someone else**
 - **Follow God's laws – we trust that he wants the best for us.**
 - **Confession – we trust him to forgive our sins.**

Let's Read a Story – The Low Road

- When we rely on our own wisdom instead of God's, we often end up making the wrong choice – and there are consequences for making poor choices. These consequences can be a wake-up call to help us acknowledge that we have done something wrong & need to ask forgiveness for our sins.
1. How do you think Nick felt after breaking all of his toys?
 - **really sad – they were broken**
 - **regret / sorry – he spent his money on them instead of on the bike**
 - **worried – what will his parents say about his decision**
 2. Have you ever experienced something like this?
 - **ex. something bad/sad happened after they made a choice they knew wasn't right**
 - **ex. having something they shouldn't have & accidentally breaking it**
 - **ex. being somewhere they were not allowed to be & getting hurt.**
 - **ex. eating something they weren't supposed to eat & feeling sick.**

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

3. How does this relate to the contrition we feel when we sin?
 - **Sinning is always a bad choice – even when it seems like a good idea on the surface.**
 - **Sin has natural consequences**
 - **we get hurt, hurt someone’s feelings, feel sad, end up further away from God**
 - **Consequences get our attention & help us see that we made a bad choice.**
 - **We feel sad & remember to be sorry for our sins.**

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Session 7 – Celebrating Reconciliation

OBJECTIVES

1. 7 Steps for going to confession.
2. The Examination of Conscience: We ask the HS to reveal our sins & to help us make a good confession.
3. Confession of Sins: We tell the priest our sins, starting w/the most serious sins.
4. Penance: We receive a penance from the priest to make satisfaction for our sins.
5. Absolution: The priest gives us absolution for our sins & the HS comes to forgive us of our sins..

KEY WORDS

1. **Penance** – An act done to repair the damage caused by our sins,
 - usually through prayers or doing good works.
2. **Penitent** – The sinner who repents of sin and seeks forgiveness.
3. **Examination of Conscience** – Looking at our words & actions to determine how we may have sinned.
4. **Perfect Contrition** – When we are sorry for our sins
 - because we love God & are sorry for having offended him.
5. **Imperfect Contrition** – When we are sorry for our sins
 - because we are afraid of being punished or because we recognize the ugliness of sin.
6. **Absolution** – The words said by the priest that forgive us of our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Memory Verse

James 4:8

- “Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.”

Key Points

1. The 3 actions we must do for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are:
 - **repent ... confess our sins to a priest ... do penance**
2. We must confess all mortal sins in kind & number.
3. We should confess our venial sins as well.
4. Perfect contrition means being sorry for our sins because we love God.
5. Imperfect contrition means being sorry for our sins because we are afraid of punishment or recognize the ugliness of sin.
6. When the priest says the words of Absolution, the Holy Spirit forgives us of our sins.

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Let's Watch – How to Make a Good Confession

- The way to prepare our hearts to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 - The different steps of how to go to confession.
 - What a penance is and how we do our penance.
1. What makes you nervous about going to Confession?
 - **making a mistake – not knowing what to do.**
 - **worries what priest might think of them**
 - **Sacrament of Reconciliation is a safe place & priest is there to help them.**
 2. What is penance?
 - **a small act of love that expresses our sorrow for our sins.**
 - **helps repair the harm caused by sin**
 - **helps us recover our spiritual health by making amends for sin.**
 3. What makes you excited about going to Confession?
 - **receiving God's grace & forgiveness**
 - **finally your turn after watching parents & siblings**
 - **curious about what the priest may ask them**
 - **ENCOUNTERING JESUS OUR LORD!**

Let's Read God's Word – Lost and Found

- The younger son felt contrition when things started going badly for him in the foreign land.
 - The father gladly forgave his son and welcomed him home.
 - The older brother did not think the father's forgiveness was fair because he didn't understand his love.
 - When we sin & turn back to God, it is like we were dead and are brought back to life.
1. How does this story help us understand God & the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
 - **Father was looking of the son to return & ran to meet him**
 - **God always wants us to return to him & comes to us offering us forgiveness**
 2. Why do you think the younger son left home?
 - **he only cared about what he wanted & not about anyone else**
 - **thought life was better somewhere else than with his father**
 3. Why do you think the younger son came home?
 - **when he was miserable from all the mistakes he had made**
 - **realized that life was not better in foreign land – better with his father.**
 4. How did the father treat his son when he returned?
 - **Father – welcomed his son –**
 - **was happy & wanted to celebrate his return**
 - **didn't make him feel bad or punish him for his mistakes**
 5. How does God treat us when we say we are sorry for our sins?
 - **God rejoices & welcomes us back with open arms.**
 6. How did the older brother feel about the way his father forgave his younger brother? Do you think the older brother really understood his father's love?
 - **Jealous – didn't think it was fair**
 - **The father's mercy is greater than the demands of justice.**

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Let's Learn About Our Faith – Draw Closer to God

- In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God runs out to meet us & welcomes us home.
 - The 3 things we must do for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are:
 - **repent ... confess our sins to a priest ... do penance.**
 - Penance repairs the damage caused by our sins.
 - We are called penitents when we repent of our sin & seek forgiveness.
 - We get ready for Confession by making an examination of conscience.
 - We must confess all mortal sins in KIND (what we did) and NUMBER (how many times we did it) in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 - It is a very good idea to confess our venial sins in the sacrament as well.
 - Everything we say in Confession is completely secret.
 - The Act of Contrition is the prayer that tells God we are sorry.
 - Perfect contrition means being sorry for our sins because we love God.
 - Imperfect contrition means being sorry for our sins because we are afraid of punishment.
 - God still forgives us if we only have imperfect contrition.
 - When the priest says the words of Absolution, the Holy Spirit comes to forgive us of our sins.
1. Why does an examination of conscience help us make a better Confession?
 - **we look closely at our words & actions to help us recognize how we have sinned.**
 2. Which sins are we required to confess to a priest in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
 - **Mortal sins – including quantity**
 3. Explain why penance is not earning God's forgiveness?
 - **God's forgiveness is a free gift – because he loves us.**
 - **Penance helps heal the damage that our sin caused in our life & the lives of others**
 - **it helps us draw closer to God.**
 4. During what part of Confession does the Holy Spirit come and forgive us of our sins?
 - **words of Absolution**

Did You Know? – Zacchaeus's Penance

- Zacchaeus made satisfaction for his sins by giving half his money to the poor.
 - This is Penance – repairing the damage we have caused.
1. How do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus called to him?
 - **Surprised, scared, excited?**
 2. What made Zacchaeus give his money to the poor?
 - **He felt bad and wanted to right some of the wrong he caused.**
 - **This is called what? – Satisfaction , Penance**

Let's Do Activities

- Learn about the steps for going to confession.
 - Examination of Conscience: Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal our sins & make a good confession.
 - Confession of Sins: We tell the priest our sins, starting with the most serious sins.
 - Penance: We receive a penance from the priest to make satisfaction for our sins.
 - Absolution: The priest gives us Absolution for our sins & the Holy Spirit forgives us of our sins.

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Seven Steps: 4, 1, 6, 3, 2, 7, 5

The Prodigal Son Story

1. A. Money
2. C. Pig feeder
3. B. Sad & sorry
4. C. Home
5. A. Forgave him

Let's Recall & Reflect

1. Think about the story of the father & his 2 sons. How do you think the younger son felt when he was living with the pigs? How do you think he felt when his father welcomed him home?
 - **pigs – sad & miserable, guilty & ashamed**
 - **father – happy & relieved, surprised @ party & welcome**
2. Why is it important to tell someone we are sorry when we hurt them? Why do you think we have to tell God our sins and say that we are sorry in Confession?
 - **Other people – don't know we are sorry unless we tell them.**
 - **God – already knows our sin & our heart – we are telling him:**
 - **we are sorry**
 - **we know we were wrong**
 - **we want to make it better**
 - **we don't want to do it again**

Story of a Saint – St. Padre Pio

- At the age of 15, Padre Pio understood God wanted him to become a priest.
 - God gave him the special gift of the stigmata – the wounds of Jesus on his hands and feet.
 - Padre Pio spent several hours every day hearing confessions & forgiving people's sins so they could become closer to Jesus.
1. Padre Pio said yes to God's plan for his life, even when he was still very young. What can you do to say yes to God's plan for your life – even though you might not know exactly what that plan looks like?
 - **Pray – ask God to help you to know his will & tell him you trust him.**
 - **When something happens – good or bad – remember God is always taking care of us.**
 - **Don't get worries / anxious about the future – turn to God in prayer**
 2. What special gift did God give to padre Pio? How did this help padre Pio draw even closer to Jesus?
 - **stigmata – the wounds of Jesus in his hands and his feet**
 - **He experienced a little of what Jesus experienced in the Crucifixion.**
 3. Why did Padre Pio spend so much time hearing confessions? What does this teach us about the importance of Confession?
 - **He wanted other people to know about & experience God's love & forgiveness.**
 - **We encounter God's love & mercy in this sacrament in a very important & unique way**
 - **and we should take advantage of it!**

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Let's Read a Story – The Long Road

- It's hard to admit when we are wrong.
 - When we have made bad choices, the guilt and shame can trick us into thinking that our mistakes are bigger than the love God and our parents have for us.
 - But Love always comes looking for the beloved.
1. Did Nick solve his problems by running away? Have you ever felt like hiding when you did something wrong?
 - **No – made them worse because he got hungry & cold & wet.**
 - **Guilt – helps us know it was wrong & we need to apologize & ask forgiveness.**
 - **Ashamed – we may also feel this.**
 - **God doesn't want us to hide from his love.**
 2. How is Nick's dad like the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son?
 - **Looking – for his lost son**
 - **Didn't scold him when he found him**
 - **Happiness in finding his son was > than his anger or sadness over the bad choices.**
 3. Should we be afraid of telling God our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
 - **No - God is looking for us & will celebrate our return to him**