

Chapter 15 **Jesus Forgives**

Your faith has saved you; go in peace. *Luke 7:50*

To the Parents:

In chapter 15, your child learned the following:

- Jesus forgives sinners.
- Jesus gave the Church the power to absolve sin and celebrate God's forgiveness through the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Jesus teaches that reconciliation with God, with one another, and with oneself is absolutely necessary for Christians. Jesus is the model of forgiveness; even while he was being put to death he said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (*Luke 23:34*).

Followers of Jesus are called not only to forgive but to reconcile with those who have inflicted pain and suffering. To reconcile means to repair a broken relationship, to bring together once more those who have been separated by anger, hurt feelings, damaged egos, and real or perceived wrongs. For Catholics, the sacrament of Penance celebrates forgiveness and seeks to bring about reconciliation. The prayers of sacramental reconciliation speak of the "Father of mercies," who has reconciled the world to himself through his Son, Jesus, and through the sending of the Holy Spirit "for the forgiveness of sins." Thus, Catholics are strengthened and encouraged by these prayers to reconcile and to forgive as Jesus did.

With Your Child:

1. Read the story of Jesus' pardon of a sinful woman in the Bible (*Luke 7:36-50*), and talk about her actions and Jesus' response to them.
2. Think of a wrong you have done against someone recently. Talk about ways to seek forgiveness and reconciliation with that person.
3. Reflect on your sins and plan to receive the sacrament of Penance at your church as a family.
4. Together read the story of Saint Patrick on the Review and Explore page.