

Chapter 13

Forgiven

Happy are those who follow God's way.

Psalm 1:2

For the Parent:

In chapter 13 your child learned to:

- Analyze parables to learn about God's mercy
- Determine ways to reconcile with God and the Church
- Recognize that reconciliation is a celebration of forgiveness

The Great Commandment of Jesus is to “Love the Lord your God with your whole heart...and...your neighbor as yourself” (*Mark 12:30—31*). Often, this is easier said than done. Failures to love are common. Yet Jesus tells his followers that they are called to forgive one another as God forgives them. The gospel story of the Forgiving Father (often referred to as the parable of the prodigal son), found in *Luke 15:11—32*, and the words of Jesus from the cross, “Father, forgive them” (*Luke 22:34*), speak clearly about the human need to forgive and forgive and be forgiven.

With Your Child:

1. At your next family meal, ask someone to light a candle. Each family member can say, “I’m sorry for the ways I have hurt you.” Everyone answers, “We forgive you.” Let the candle shine to remind everyone about God’s forgiveness.
2. Read about Saint Maria Goretti on the Review and Explore page.