

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

INQUIRY SESSION: FORGIVENESS



My Story

Most relationships with families and friends go through some rough times. Life doesn't always go smoothly. Arguments can grow out of small things and misunderstandings. Name-calling happens. You can hurt others, and others can hurt you.



AND THINK

- *When you go through rough times with your family and friends, what do you do to help make things better?*



God's Story

Everyone sins. Our sinful ways have hurt people and the world around us. But God sent his only Son, Jesus, into the world to save us from sin, to heal us and to heal the world.

God alone forgives our sins, no matter how big they are. Of course, we have to be honest about our sins and we have to be sorry for them. If we are, God's love can heal us. We will find new life in God's Son, Jesus, whose name means "God saves."

KEY



POINTS

- *Salvation is ours as a free gift from God.*
- *Even when we hurt ourselves and others by sinning, God is always ready to forgive.*
- *God does not hold our sins against us if we ask for his mercy.*



Our Response

It is important to be truthful and honest about our sins. It takes courage to do so. Such courage is a grace, or a gift, from God.



STOP & SHARE

- *Have you ever tried to hide something you did from your parents or from a friend?*
- *How did hiding from them what you did make you feel?*
- *How did you feel after the truth came out?*

Sharing God's Word

With your family, read one or more of the Scriptures listed below. Talk about what each Scripture teaches about **forgiveness**.

Luke 15:11-32

(The Parable of the Lost Son)

Luke 17:3-4

(Temptation to Sin)

John 1:29-34

(John the Baptist's Testimony to Jesus)

The above readings are available at
usccb.org/bible/readings.

Faith Words

Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

Penance and Reconciliation is the sacrament through which we receive God's forgiveness for the sins we commit after Baptism.

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sin

Sin is an act we freely choose to do wrong. Sin weakens or breaks our relationship with God and the Church.

Witness of Faith



Saint Augustine (354–430)

Saint Augustine lived many years ago. When he was young, he often got into trouble. One day, Augustine was sitting in his garden. He heard a child's voice sing the words, "Take and read!" Augustine saw his mother's Bible on a table. He began to read it. He thought about what he read and began to follow Jesus. Another saint, Ambrose, helped Augustine think about his life and his choices, too. Augustine later wrote a book about his life. The book is called *Confessions*. People all over the world still read this book today. Reading it continues to help people make good choices and live holy lives. The Church celebrates the Feast of Saint Augustine on August 28.