



PREPARING FOR

First Reconciliation

A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

A Prayer for Parents and Families

Loving God,
Thank you for the gift of our children.
As we remember the day we brought them to your
church for Baptism,
help us to fulfil our commitment to pass on the gift of
faith to them.
May they grow in love for you and for others.
Amen.

Memories?



The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sacrament of Healing

Jesus brought God's healing to many through

- His actions: Zacchaeus
- His stories: The Prodigal Son
- His words: 'Forgive them Father...' (Luke 23:34)

This was carried on through his Disciples

- 'Those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven' (John 20:23)

Grow In Love emphasises....

- **The goodness of the child:**
- **The interconnectedness of us all**
- **Jesus as the One who embodied the full potential of human goodness**
- **God's never-ending love**



Being Lost – Disconnecting

Being selfish

Not being bothered

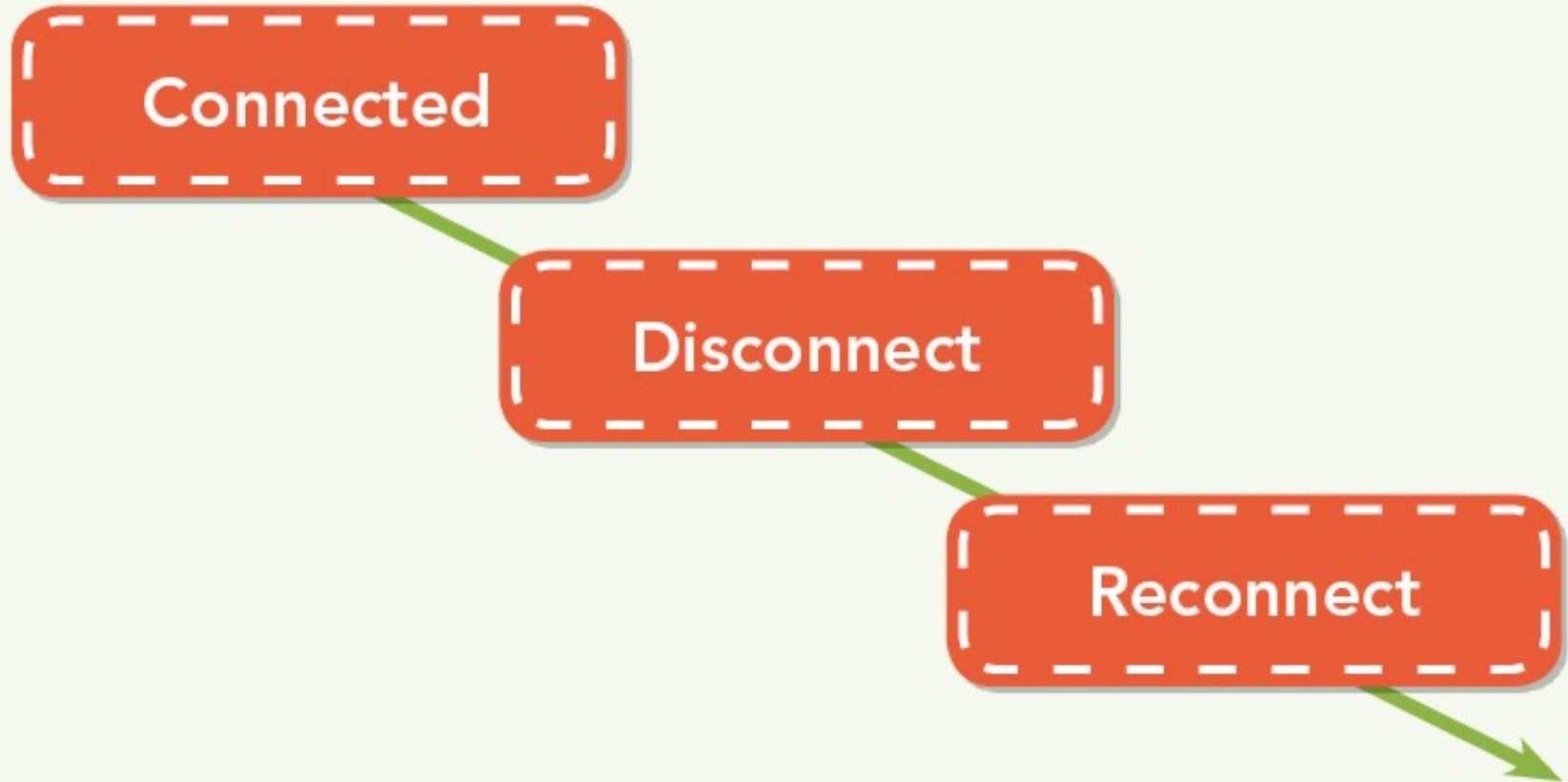
Being unfair

Not being true

Being a bully



Reconciliation



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ELAINE MAHON

4. The Sacrament of Reconciliation



This section and the section that follows will help you to explain to your child what will happen when they celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Practices vary from parish to parish, so if you have any specific questions about what will happen on the day of your child's First Reconciliation, check with the priest or your child's teacher.

In celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, our emphasis is always on the never-ending love and forgiveness of God, and so children need not be anxious or worried about celebrating the sacrament for the first time. However, if your child is particularly shy or nervous about talking to the priest, think about asking them to draw a picture showing a time when they didn't live as Jesus asks. They can bring this to the priest, and talk to him about it. All the time reassure your child of God's love - and indeed your love - for them.

A Prayer for Parents and Families

Loving God,
Help us to prepare our children for a sincere and honest confession.
May they never be afraid to admit when they have made a mistake, and to ask for forgiveness from you and from others.
Amen.

We have already seen how to get ready for the Sacrament of Reconciliation – by thinking about our lives and remembering those times when we didn't act the way God wants us to. Now it's time for the second step – telling the priest what we did that we want to say sorry for.

Colour the second footprint to show that you are ready for this next step.



How to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

1 When you sit next to the priest, make the Sign of the Cross to show that you are there in God's name.

2 Begin by telling the priest why you are there: 'Bless me, Father, for I have sinned.' Then we tell the priest how long it has been since we last celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If it is your First Confession, you can tell him so.



What will you say to the priest on the day of your First Confession?

In the name of the _____ and
of the _____ and of the _____
_____, Amen.

Bless me, Father _____

This is my _____

When Jesus told this story, he was thinking about God. Jesus knew that God loves everyone, and that God wants everyone to be happy. He knew that God always forgives people when they realise that they need to say sorry for having done something wrong. For Jesus, God is like the father in the story.



Do you think God is like the father in the story?

PJ Prayer

Loving God,
Thank you for sending us your son, Jesus, to
teach us about your love for us.
Help me to understand that you are like a caring
mother or father, who always loves me.
Keep us all safe through the night.
Amen.



Preparing for First Reconciliation: A Guide for Families

1. I am part of God's
Family, and God Loves Me



2. The Parable of The
Prodigal Son



3. Turning
Back to God



4. The Sacrament of
Reconciliation



Preparing for First Reconciliation: A Guide for Families

5. Penance



6. I say I am Sorry and I
am Forgiven



7. I Try Again



8. How I Reconcile With
God and With Others



Dates for Reconciliation Services in Our Parish

Type your dates here.

