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SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION Reconciliation

Jesus Teaches Us How to Forgive

Activity: The child creates a paint-swatch bookmark as a reminder of the steps we take in asking for forgiveness.

Concept

During Reconciliation, we receive forgiveness. Just as we are forgiven, we learn what it means to forgive others.

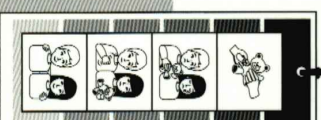
What You Need

- ▶ photocopy of Side B of this Lesson Card
- ▶ children's Bible, such as *The Catholic Children's Bible* (St. Mary's Press)
- ▶ paint swatch(es)
- ▶ art supplies
- ▶ hole punch
- ▶ yarn
- ▶ glitter glue (optional)

At Home

Invite the parents to review the bookmark with their child twice before next week and to talk about situations in which we forgive and ask for forgiveness.

Example



Lesson Steps

1 Opening Prayer

Pray the Sign of the Cross with the child, followed by: *Dear God, please teach us how to forgive others just as you forgive us.* Pray the Sign of the Cross.

2 Begin with Life Experience

With the child by your side, read Matthew 18:21–22 (The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant) aloud from a children's Bible. Explain that to forgive means to put aside bad feelings you may have for a person who hurt you. Say: *Only if we forgive others can we be forgiven. It isn't always easy to forgive those who have hurt us, but we should always do our best to act like Jesus and forgive.*

3 Connect

Pray the Lord's Prayer together. Stop to emphasize the lines *Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.* Explain that the word *trespass* here means "to do something that hurts someone." Say: *When we forgive those who have hurt us, we are acting like Jesus.* Give the child the photocopy of Side B of this card. Help him or her cut out the images and glue them to the paint swatch. Punch a hole at the top, thread with colorful yarn, and decorate with glitter glue if desired. Say: *Jesus teaches us how to forgive.*

4 Closing Prayer

Pray the Sign of the Cross with the child, followed by: *Thank you, God, for teaching us how to forgive.* Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.

