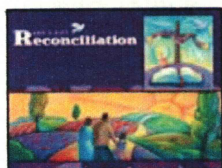


## Reconciliation Guide for Children



Much of the following material was adapted from the fine text from Loyola Press which prepares second graders to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. It is entitled: **God's Gift: Reconciliation.**

To order copies with expansive content for children, visit  
<http://www.loyolapress.com/gods-gift-reconciliation-childs-book-english.htm>

### Making Good Choices

In Baptism, we begin to live as followers of Jesus. We live as his disciples. As Jesus' disciples, we want to make good choices. The Holy Spirit guides us in making good choices. He is our special helper.

Some choices are easy. I might choose whether to eat an apple or a banana for lunch. Other choices are not so easy. Sometimes I have to choose between what's right and what's wrong. This is called making a **moral choice**.

If I'm not sure a choice is a good one, this is what I do:

1. I stop before I act
2. I think about the Ten Commandments
3. I ask help from my parents, my teacher, a priest, or a deacon
4. I pray to the Holy Spirit to help me choose.

### We are Tempted to Sin

Even when we try to make good choices, sometimes we are tempted. We are tempted to act in ways that hurt ourselves or other people. When we turn away from God's laws, we sin. Sin hurts our friendship with God.

Sometimes turning away from God and others can be very serious. It is a **mortal sin**. A mortal sin is a serious choice to turn away from God's laws. It cuts us off from God's love and grace. We must confess mortal sins to a priest and receive absolution.

Sometimes we can turn away from God and others in a less serious way. Then we commit a **venial sin**. Every time we sin, we hurt our friendship with God and with others.

Jesus always loves us, even if we sin. Jesus looks into our hearts. He sees that we are good. If we do something wrong and we are sorry, Jesus forgives us. Jesus gives us another chance.

**Something to think about:** *Mistakes and Accidents are Not Sin.*

### Jesus Forgives Our Sins

Jesus wants to forgive our sins. We come to Jesus for **forgiveness** in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In this sacrament, we **confess** our sins to a priest. He forgives us in Jesus' name. The grace we have lost is given back to us.

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Jesus comforts us. He strengthens us on our journey. We are reconciled with God, with the Church, and with the people we have hurt. Through this sacrament the Church celebrates Jesus' gift of forgiveness.

**Something to think about:** *Only Bishops and Priests can forgive sins in Jesus' name.*