

Station #4 *Penance*



After we confess our sins, the priest gives us a way to make up for our sins and change our lives. This step of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is called penance. Penance can include things like doing acts of love for others, caring for others, praying, fasting, supporting the poor, etc.

Materials

- Story of Zacchaeus, Making Up Worksheet

Read the Story of Zacchaeus

- Read the Story of Zacchaeus.

Complete the Making Up Worksheet

- Work together to help your child explore ways to make up when he/she has done something wrong. Fill in the “other” space with an idea (or more) of your own!

The Story of Zacchaeus

In the town of Jericho there was a rich tax collector. His name was Zacchaeus.

One day Jesus visited the town. Zacchaeus wanted very much to see Jesus, but he had a problem. He was very short and could not see over the crowd that had gathered to see Jesus.

There was a large Sycamore tree by the side of the road. Zacchaeus quickly climbed the tree. He waited there because he knew he would be able to see Jesus as he passed by.



When Jesus came to the tree, he stopped. He looked up and saw Zacchaeus sitting in the tree. He called to him, "Hurry down Zacchaeus, I want to come to your house today."

Zacchaeus was amazed. Out of all the people there, Jesus had chosen to come to his home. He climbed down from the tree and welcomed Jesus with joy.



The people in the crowd were not happy. They did not like tax collectors. Oftentimes, tax collectors were dishonest. They cheated the people. They collected more money than they were supposed to, and kept the extra for themselves. Zacchaeus was a tax collector and he was rich. The people could not understand why Jesus wanted to be friendly with a man like that.



But Zacchaeus had been changed by Jesus' love. He was sorry for any wrong choices he had made. He stood up and said: "Listen, Jesus, I will give half my belongings to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay him back four times as much."



Jesus believed Zacchaeus. He believed that Zacchaeus was sorry and would make up for what he had done.

Making Up

Zacchaeus was forgiven. He made up for the wrong he had done by paying back what he had taken. We, too, can make up when we have done something wrong. **For each of the scenarios, draw a line to show what you would do to make up.**

When I argue with a family member, after I say I'm sorry, I make up by...

- ◇ Doing something nice for the person.
- ◇ Giving a hug.

When I disobey a rule, after I say I'm sorry, I make up by...

- ◇ Helping the person to do something they need help to do.

- ◇ Writing an "I'm Sorry" note.

When I hurt someone, after I say I'm sorry, I make up by...

- ◇ Asking the person to forgive me.

- ◇ Doing something special together.

When I am unkind to my sister or brother, after I say I'm sorry, I make up by...

- ◇ Telling the person what I will do differently the next time so it doesn't keep happening.

- ◇ Other: _____