

Station #6 *Forgiveness*



The final step of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is called Absolution. The priest prays for you and asks for God to forgive you. Then the priest gives you God's forgiveness and peace (absolution).

Materials

- Story: "The Boy Who Ran Away"
- Votive candle from Station #1 (Baptism)

The Boy Who Ran Away

- Read the story, "The Boy Who Ran Away," then discuss the following:
 - Sometimes we are like the boy who ran away. We make selfish choices that hurt other people. But God is like the loving father in the story. What did the boy have to do to get his father's forgiveness?
 - Answer: Nothing. He only needed to come back to the father to receive forgiveness. This is how God feels about us too. God wants to be close to us and when we make poor choices, he is waiting to forgive us; all we have to do is turn back to God. This is what we do in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 - Discuss any conflicts or arguments you may have had in your family in the past few days. How does the story of the boy who ran away relate to forgiveness and your own family?

Relight Your Candle

- Light the candle from Station #1 (Baptism) again. When we sin we turn the light of Christ off, but through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we turn our light back on and become the light of Christ for our families, our communities, and our world.



The Boy Who Ran Away

Once there was a naughty boy,
who wanted just to be out on his own.
He asked his father for his share of money
and left his warm and happy childhood home.

He traveled around through village and town,
seeking only his own selfish pleasure.
Wherever he went, he quickly made friends,
who showed him new ways to spend his treasure.

But he found that money didn't last forever,
and there came a day when his last cent was gone.
He looked around to find a friend to help him
and discovered that they'd left him all alone.

He went from house to house, alone and hungry.
He begged for food and slept out on the ground.
Then, remembering his father and his brother,
he turned around and soon was homeward bound.

"I'll tell my father that I'm really sorry
and I'll ask if I can sleep out in his barn.
I'll tend his sheep and do all that he asks me,
if only he will take me back again."

When the father saw his young son in the distance,
he ran to greet the boy with open arms.
"Call our friends," he said, "we'll have a party,
for my son was lost and now he has come
home."

There's a lesson in this happy-ending story
that Jesus wanted each of us to learn.
However far away from God we wander
our loving Father waits for our return.

Adapted from Lucas 15: 11-24

