**FIRST RECONCILIATION RETREAT TEACHING SUMMARY**

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|  | **Objectives** | **Teaching Steps** | **Activities** | **Materials** |
| **Arrival**  **and**  **Gathering** | * To welcome the children and parents as they arrive |  |  | * Name tags * Markers * Copies of "Memories of Childhood" and "Preparing for Reconciliation" |
| **Welcome**  **and**  **Opening Prayer** | * To pray together as a community * To explain the purpose of the retreat | * Say an opening prayer * Explain the purpose of the retreat * Explain the Respect Rule * Introduce an attention grabber |  | * Prayer table * Bible * Candle |
| **Icebreaker/Game** | * To create a welcoming environment and encourage the families to mingle with each other | * Refer to "Icebreakers & Games" section in the *Reconciliation Resources Booklet* |  | * Any materials needed for icebreaker or game |
| **Memories**  **of**  **Childhood** | * To provide an opportunity for parents to share a childhood memory with their children | * Review instructions for "Memories of Childhood" activity | * Memories of Childhood | * Copies of "Memories of Childhood" handout |
| **Prodigal**  **Son**  **Story** | * To understand God as a loving Father who is always ready to forgive | * Read Luke 15:11-32 and show images * Recount events of the story * Discuss questions | * Recounting the events of the story * Engaging the children and parents in dialogue | * PowerPoint presentation of images * Planning pages * Projector * Screen |
|  | **Objectives** | **Teaching Steps** | **Activities** | **Materials** |
| **Break** |  | * Direct participants to restrooms and refreshments * Lead the group into grace. Refer to the "Fun Graces" section in the *Reconciliation Resources Booklet* |  | * Refreshments * Lyrics for grace |
| **Flash Paper/Sin Demonstration** | * To demonstrate how we cannot carry Christ's light to the world when our lives are full of sin * To understand sin and penance | * Guide volunteers into the Flash Paper or Sin Demonstration * Discussion questions if using Sin Demonstration | * Flash Paper Demonstration   OR   * Sin Demonstration | * Flash paper * Candle * Lighter   OR   * 'God' and 'Family of God' signs |
| **Examination**  **of**  **Conscience** | * To familiarize the children with the steps of the Sacrament of Reconciliation * To demonstrate both improper and proper approaches to the Sacrament of Reconciliation | * Review "Preparing for Reconciliation" * Pray "Invocation to the Holy Spirit" or "A Prayer to Jesus" * Lead children into an examination of conscience * Lead children in an Act of Contrition | * Examination of Conscience * Bad Confession, Good Confession Skit OR "How do I go to Confession?" video | * Copies of "Preparing for Reconciliation" * If using skit: two chairs, props * If using video: copy of video, laptop or other device to play video, screen, projector, sound |
| **Procession**  **with**  **Good Deeds** | * To encourage children to thank God for all the good things they have been given and to offer their good deeds back to God | * Explain instructions for procession | * Procession with Good Deeds | * Extra materials for good deeds * Lyrics to and recording of "Prayer of Saint Francis" |
| **Closing Prayer and**  **Sending Forth** | * To bless/send forth the children | * Read blessing from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* |  | * Copy of blessing |