**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
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| **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
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| **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
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| **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
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| **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"
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| **Closing Prayer and** **Sending Forth** | * To bless/send forth the children
 | * Read blessing from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*
 |  | * Copy of blessing
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