

FIRST RECONCILIATION RETREAT TEACHING SUMMARY

	Objectives	Teaching Steps	Activities	Materials
Arrival and Gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To welcome the children and parents as they arrive 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name tags Markers Copies of "Memories of Childhood" and "Preparing for Reconciliation"
Welcome and Opening Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To pray together as a community To explain the purpose of the retreat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say an opening prayer Explain the purpose of the retreat Explain the Respect Rule Introduce an attention grabber 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayer table Bible Candle
Icebreaker/Game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create a welcoming environment and encourage the families to mingle with each other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to "Icebreakers & Games" section in the <i>Reconciliation Resources Booklet</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any materials needed for icebreaker or game
Memories of Childhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an opportunity for parents to share a childhood memory with their children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review instructions for "Memories of Childhood" activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memories of Childhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies of "Memories of Childhood" handout
Prodigal Son Story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand God as a loving Father who is always ready to forgive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Luke 15:11-32 and show images Recount events of the story Discuss questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recounting the events of the story Engaging the children and parents in dialogue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PowerPoint presentation of images Planning pages Projector Screen

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Break		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct participants to restrooms and refreshments • Lead the group into grace. Refer to the "Fun Graces" section in the <i>Reconciliation Resources Booklet</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refreshments • Lyrics for grace
Flash Paper/Sin Demonstration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To demonstrate how we cannot carry Christ's light to the world when our lives are full of sin • To understand sin and penance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide volunteers into the Flash Paper or Sin Demonstration • Discussion questions if using Sin Demonstration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flash Paper Demonstration OR • Sin Demonstration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flash paper • Candle • Lighter OR • 'God' and 'Family of God' signs
Examination of Conscience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To familiarize the children with the steps of the Sacrament of Reconciliation • To demonstrate both improper and proper approaches to the Sacrament of Reconciliation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of Conscience • Bad Confession, Good Confession Skit OR "How do I go to Confession?" video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage children to thank God for all the good things they have been given and to offer their good deeds back to God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain instructions for procession 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procession with Good Deeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra materials for good deeds • Lyrics to and recording of "Prayer of Saint Francis"
Closing Prayer and Sending Forth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To bless/send forth the children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read blessing from <i>Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of blessing