

# Station: Role Playing Reconciliation

## Drama Room Station

### **Activity:**

*Role Playing Reconciliation*

### **Objective:**

*To help children understand how to go to confession.*

### **Materials Needed:**

1. Crucifix
2. Pretend confessional set up
3. Pretend stole
4. Paper and pencils for the pretend sin bag

### **Directions:**

To create a sin bag: Write pretend yet possible sins for children on slips of paper and put the slips of paper into a bag or hat.

Children should assist in writing these sins on slips of paper. Use the children's examination of conscience for ideas or simply talk about the things that have happened in their lives. During the pretend confession the child draws out slips of paper and tells those sins.

Examples could be:

*"I stole gum from the store."*

*"I said mean things about my classmate."*

Etc.

**There are four scenes in this script and two characters.**

SCENE ONE: Getting Ready

SCENE TWO: Going to Confession

SCENE THREE: Absolution Explanation

SCENE FOUR: After Reconciliation

CHARACTERS: Director and Child

**Note:** Because this is a pretend confession with pretend sins, a priest should not play the part of the Director.

# Role Playing Reconciliation Script

## SCENE ONE: Getting Ready

Director: Let's practice receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation. Let's begin by asking the Holy Spirit to help us by praying the Prayer Before Reconciliation.

Come, Holy Spirit, give me Your light to see my sins, and give me Your help to be sorry for them and show me why I sinned. Help me never again to sin on purpose. Amen.

Director: Let's also think about Jesus and His suffering and death on the cross to forgive our sins. Think of how much He loves us – you and me. Can you find the crucifix?

Director: Look at the crucifix and think about all Jesus has done for us.

Director: Next we do an examination of conscience to think of our sins. The only person who needs to know your sins is the priest. We will do the examination for pretend. (*continue with examination for children*)

## **SCENE TWO: Going to Confession**

Director: I'll pretend to be the priest. (*assume position, set up extra chair or place to kneel*)

Child: (*enter pretend confessional – either sit or kneel*)

(*make the Sign of the Cross*)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Director: Hello. How are you doing today?

Child: Good.

Director: Are you ready to begin?

Child: Yes.  
Bless me Father for I have sinned.  
This is my first confession.  
These are my sins. (*or similar words*)

Child: (*pulls out 4 or 5 pretend sins from the Sin bag and reads them out loud*)

Child: (*when finished reading pretend sins*)  
I am sorry for all my sins.

Director: (*may ask questions about the sins confessed and offer advice*).

Child: (*answers questions and listens closely*)

Director: For your penance, \_\_\_\_\_.  
(*say a made up penance, for example, "Recite an 'Our Father' and a 'Hail Mary.'"*).  
Now make your Act of Contrition.

Child: (*loudly and clearly, so it can be heard*)

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You. I detest all my sins because of Your just punishments, but most of all because they offend You, my God, Who are All-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen

(*or use one of the other Act of Contrition the child has learned*)

### **SCENE THREE: Absolution**

Director: *(stop the pretending)*  
Good job. Do you know what happens next, when you go to reconciliation?  
*(give the child a chance to answer)*

Child: *(says answer)*

Director: The priest will say the Prayer of Absolution.  
According to God's plan, these words, when prayed by a priest, remove sins.  
Let me read the words and then we will talk about what they mean.

God, the Father of mercies,  
through the death and resurrection of His Son  
has reconciled the world to Himself  
and sent the Holy Spirit among us  
for the forgiveness of sins;  
through the ministry of the Church  
may God give you pardon and peace,  
and I absolve you from your sins  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Director: *(explain the prayer, especially that the word "ABSOLVE" means 'to be made free from sin')*

Director: After the priest prays this prayer, you then thank the priest.

Child: Thank you.

#### **SCENE FOUR: After Reconciliation**

Child:       (*go to pretend pew*)  
              (*say your assigned penance; for example, an 'Our Father' or 'Hail Mary'*)

Child:       (*end with Prayer after Reconciliation or some words of thanking God*)

My Jesus, I thank You for washing away my sins in Your Precious Blood. Help me to accept my cross each day and not to hurt You or anyone else. I love You with my whole heart and soul.

#### **As Time Allows ...**

Run through the skit again with adults acting out the parts. This time give examples of a bad confession.

Things you might want to include this round: chewing gum, being silent when asked about sins, telling the priest a whole long story and never getting to the point of what the sin was, telling the priest only one sin and saying that is it, etc.

Then run through again correctly, letting other children take turns.

You may also want to show the children the actual confessional.

#### **Transition Prayer:**

End with reciting the Transition Prayer for this retreat, which is the Act of Contrition: "Oh my God ..."