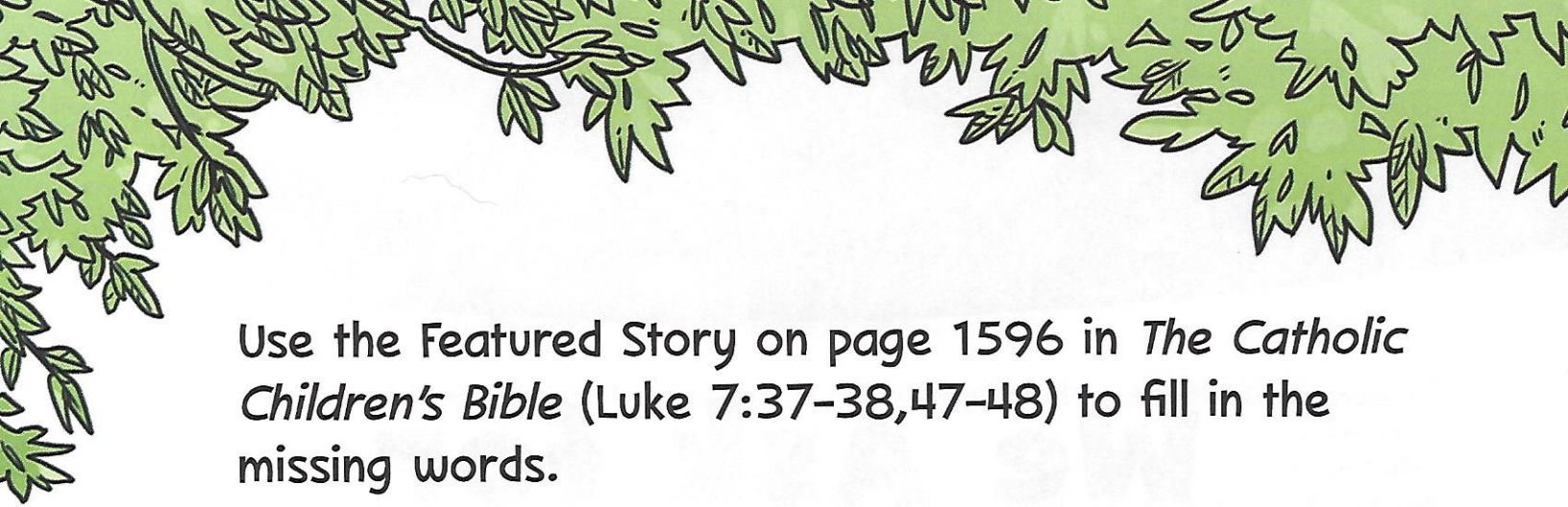


We Ask for Forgiveness



Prayer

Thank you, God, for forgiving our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We want to follow you always and to conquer evil with good, in our hearts and in our lives. Be with us and help us. We ask this in your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

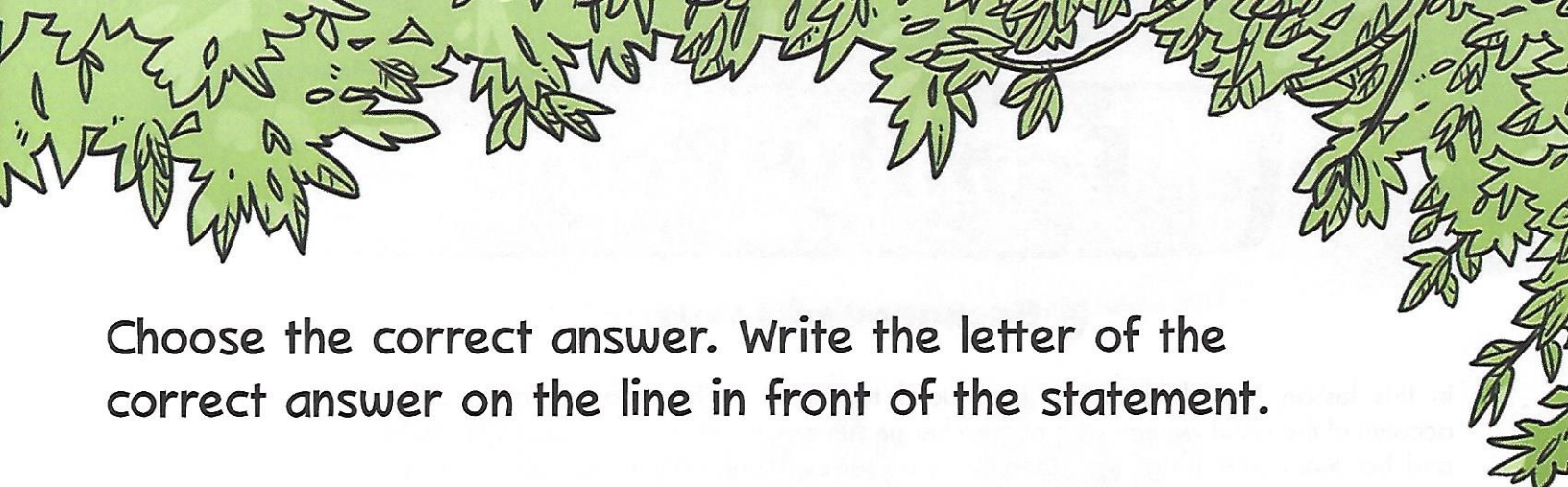


Use the Featured Story on page 1596 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 7:37-38,47-48) to fill in the missing words.

"In that _____ was a woman who lived a _____ life. She heard that Jesus was eating in the Pharisee's _____, so she brought an alabaster _____ full of _____ and stood behind Jesus, by his feet, crying and wetting his _____ with her tears. Then she dried his feet with her hair, kissed them, and poured the _____ on them.

[Jesus said,] 'The great _____ she has shown proves that her many sins have been forgiven. . . .'

Then Jesus said to the woman, 'Your _____ are forgiven.'"



Choose the correct answer. Write the letter of the correct answer on the line in front of the statement.

- _____ 1. To commit a sin, three things are needed: you must know something is a sin, you must want to do it, and you must choose to do it _____.
- a. half-heartedly b. freely c. out of fear of a bully
- _____ 2. If we commit a mortal sin, we must go to confession and ask forgiveness _____.
- a. if we have time b. as soon as possible c. before Easter
- _____ 3. A venial sin _____ our relationship with God.
- a. helps b. weakens c. breaks
- _____ 4. If we commit a venial sin, we can ask forgiveness at Mass (in the Penitential Act) and especially by receiving the Sacrament of _____.
- a. Confirmation b. Matrimony c. Reconciliation
- _____ 5. We receive _____ from the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- a. sadness b. grace c. the Eucharist

Family Page



Background Focus

In this lesson, the children are introduced to the account of the sinful woman who poured her perfume and her tears over Jesus' feet. Identifying ourselves as "sinners" is not easy, but it is the honest truth. With this truth comes the humble realization that no one—not even the person I call *me, myself, and I*—is perfect. This truth can be humbly liberating, especially when we realize that Jesus still loves us and wants to forgive us. As sinners, our imperfect love is met by perfect love. We are forgiven!

The expansion of the definition of *sin* presented in this lesson is important and includes the distinction between serious sin (mortal sin), which completely breaks our relationship with God, and less serious sin (venial sin), which nonetheless harms our relationship with God and others.

In this lesson, the truth of sinfulness and forgiveness is gradually opened up to the children through the account of the sinful woman who poured her perfume and her tears over Jesus' feet.



Family Strategies

Pope Francis has three words or phrases for modern and busy families. Those words are: *please, thank you, and sorry*. The pope reminds us that these three little words or phrases are words of great strength and protection, for, when they are lacking in family life, cracks in family love and respect appear, and can even lead to a complete collapse. "Please" means we take nothing for granted and respect another's freedom to love; "thank you" recognizes the gift of the other; "sorry" means that we acknowledge our errors, even with a small gesture. All of these attitudes ripple out in positive ways to the larger society.

[The scriptural excerpt on page 2 of this activity booklet is from the *Good News Translation*® [Today's English Version, Second Edition]. Copyright © 1992 by the American Bible Society. All rights reserved. Bible text from the *Good News Translation* [GNT] is not to be reproduced in copies or otherwise by any means except as permitted in writing by the American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023 [www.americanbible.org].

The remarks by Pope Francis on page 4 of this activity booklet are loosely adapted from a news article dated May 13, 2015, from Independent Catholic News [ICN].



Family Activities

- In conversation around the dinner table or in the car, make a point of stressing the difference between deliberately committing a sin (like disobedience) and an accident (like breaking something unintentionally). Stress that God knows what is in our hearts, and that is what counts. You may also want to assure your child that a mistake or a wrong decision is not necessarily a sin.
- Read together the Featured Story on page 1596 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*, "Jesus Forgives the Woman's Sins" (Luke 7:36–50). Admitting we have been wrong is often very hard, but this is what the sinful woman did.
- Watch together the YouTube video "Mary Magdalene Meets Jesus" (6:25). The dialogue is based on the Gospel. After the Resurrection, it is likely that Mary Magdalene continued to share the love of Jesus with others.

Pray It!

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

God, forgive us our trespasses, as you forgave the sins of the sinful woman. Show us how to love, so that there is less room for sin in our hearts. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

